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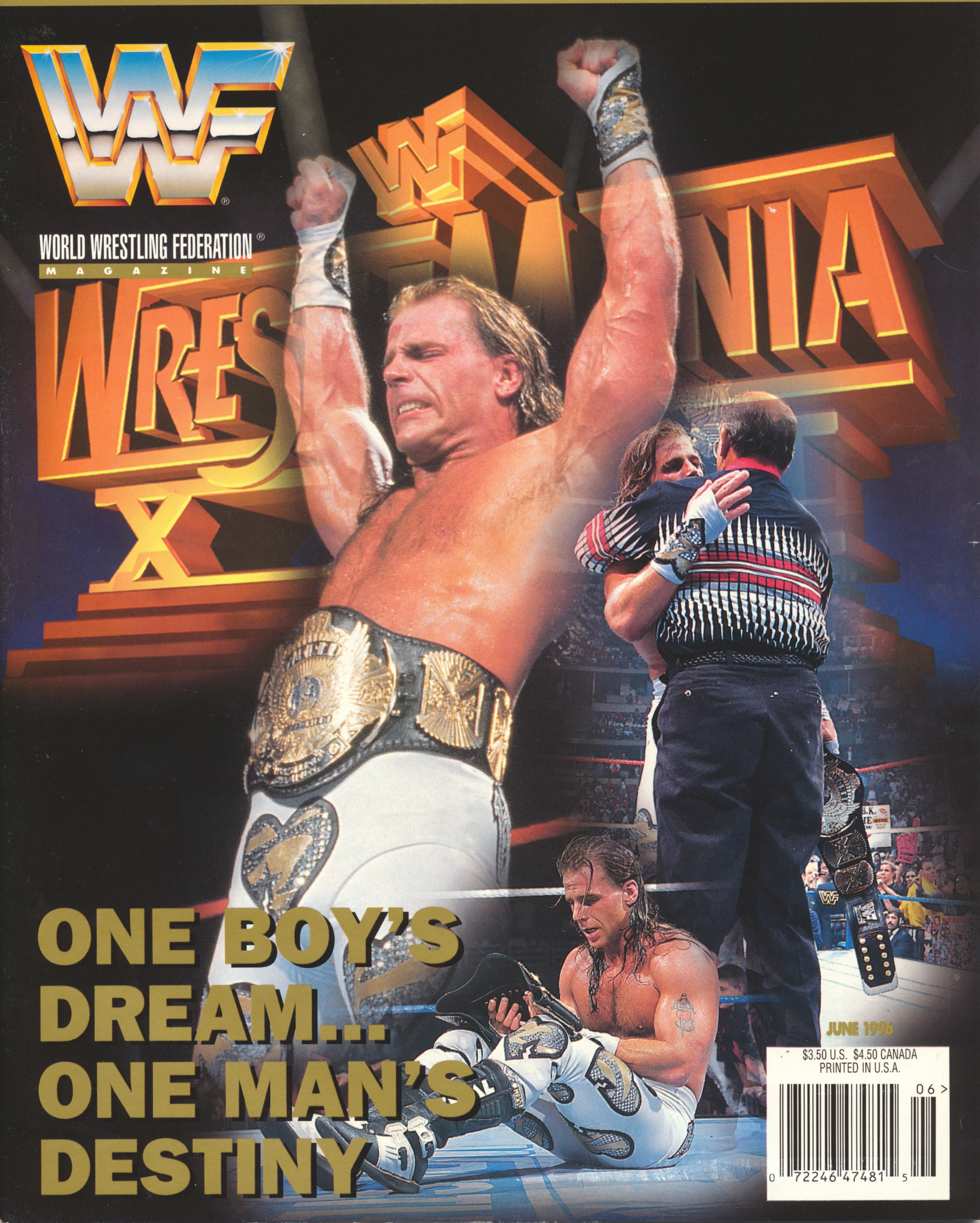

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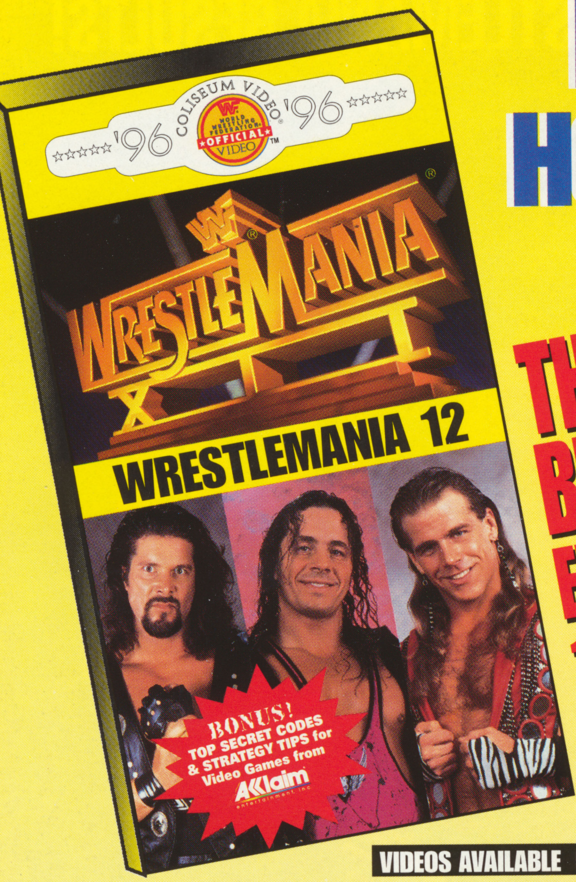
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WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION OFFICIAL COLISEUM VIDEO™

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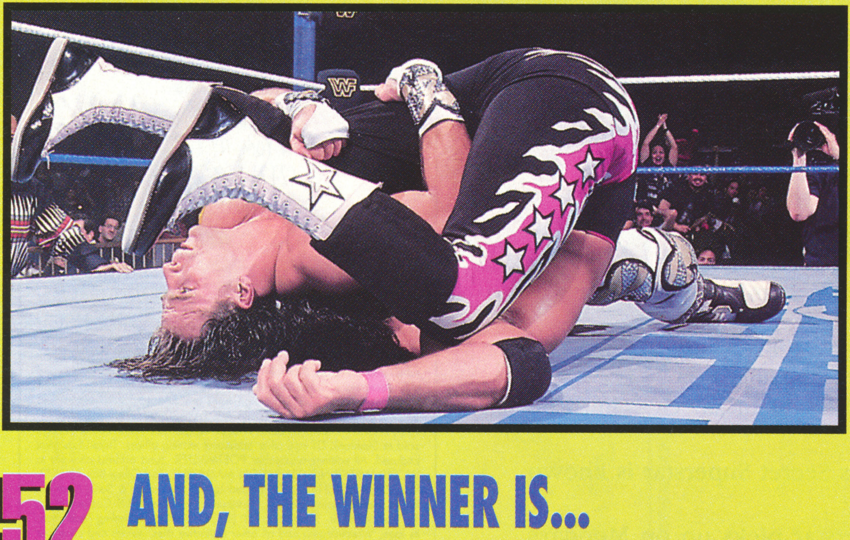

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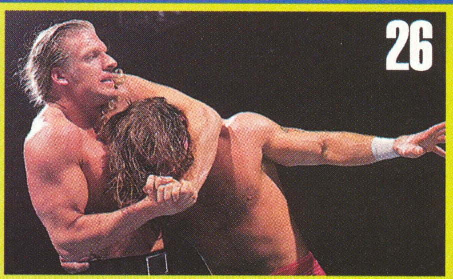

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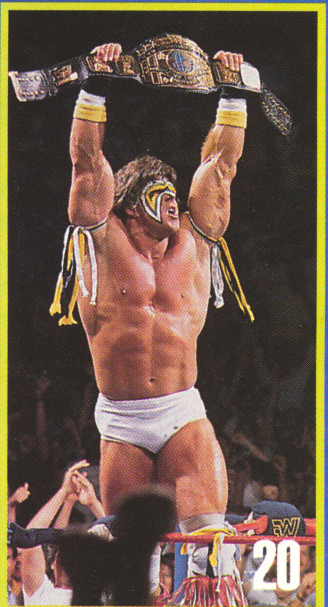

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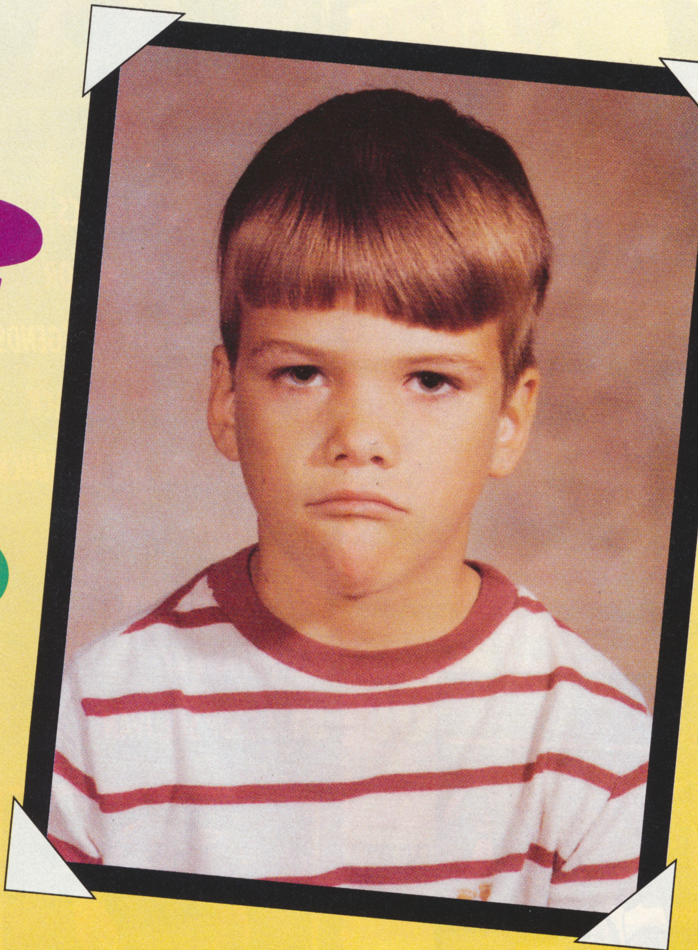
CAN YOU GUESS THE SECRET SUPERSTAR

This month's Secret Superstar treasures what everybody else throws away.



HINTS:

1. An engineer both inside—and outside—of the ring, this month's Secret Superstar also has aspirations of one day becoming a lawyer.
2. This month's Secret Superstar was never thought of as "GQ" until he recently got a "little taken off the top."
3. In the Federation locker room, this month's Secret Superstar is known as the "Superstar of 1,000 Voices."
4. Don't forget that this month's Secret Superstar picks up on Mondays and Wednesdays.

THE SECRET SUPERSTAR IS: __________ ____________

ANSWER ON PAGE 64

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MAGAZINE

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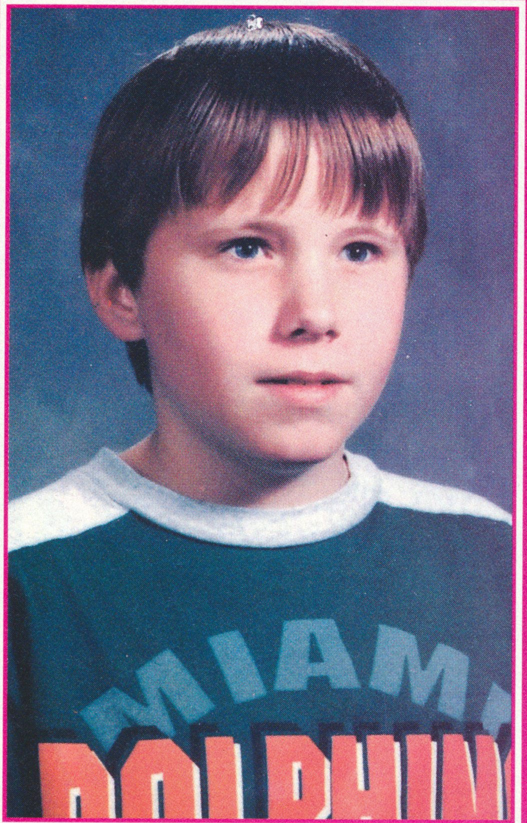
FEDERATION FANatics

Name: Daniel Penton
Age: 11
Hometown: Gordonsville, Virginia
School: Gordon Barbour
Grade: 6th
Future Ambition: To be a wrestler
Favorite Federation Superstar: Bret Hart
Least Favorite Federation Superstar: Sid
What I like best about the World Wrestling Federation: The live events!
If I were president of the World Wrestling Federation, I would: Make a new belt called the Royal Rumble Championship Belt
What I do when I'm not watching the World Wrestling Federation: I collect wrestling figures



Name: Nicole Laoutaris
Age: 9
Hometown: Kitchener, Ontario, Canada
School: Crestview Public School
Grade: 4th
Future Ambition: To be a marine biologist
Favorite Federation Superstar: Bret Hart
Least Favorite Federation Superstar: Goldust
What I like best about the World Wrestling Federation: Watching the pay-per-view events and Duke's impersonations
If I were president of the World Wrestling Federation, I would: Make Goldust wear a different outfit
What I do when I'm not watching the World Wrestling Federation: I spend time with my friends Melissa and Brooke

QUESTIONS, COMM

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World Wrestling Federation Magazine Interactive is a no-time-limit, no-holds-barred, communicative channel where you can connect with the Federation any day or night in order to bodyslam us with your opinions and views! We've opened up the ring ropes to offer you many lines of communication. Whether it be by fax, phone, E-mail or post office, our cauliflower ears are open to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! So, don't be a ham-n-egger!!! Spill your ideas, and voice your opinions—WE WANT TO HEAR `EM!

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To reach the editor, use any of the methods listed below:

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E-MAIL us at the following Internet address:
WWFEDITOR@AOL.COM

WRITE us at:
World Wrestling Federation Magazine,
c/o Vince Russo, Editor,
P.O. Box 3859,
Stamford, CT 06905.

Fax

Dear Editor,
I just love your magazine, although as of late I've found that it has become the Sunny of the Body Donnas and (inhale deeply) Goldust magazine. As much as I like reading ALL of your articles, I wouldn't mind hearing a bit less about these two.

Andrew Simpson
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Dear Andrew,
Although I respect your view, Sunny and Goldust are two of the hottest commodities in the World Wrestling Federation right now! While Goldust is currently the Federation's Intercontinental Champion, I predict that Sunny will be a MAJOR player within the next two years! These two individuals are without a doubt the "movers and shakers" of the New Generation! If indeed they do receive more magazine space than others do, that's simply because they earned it!

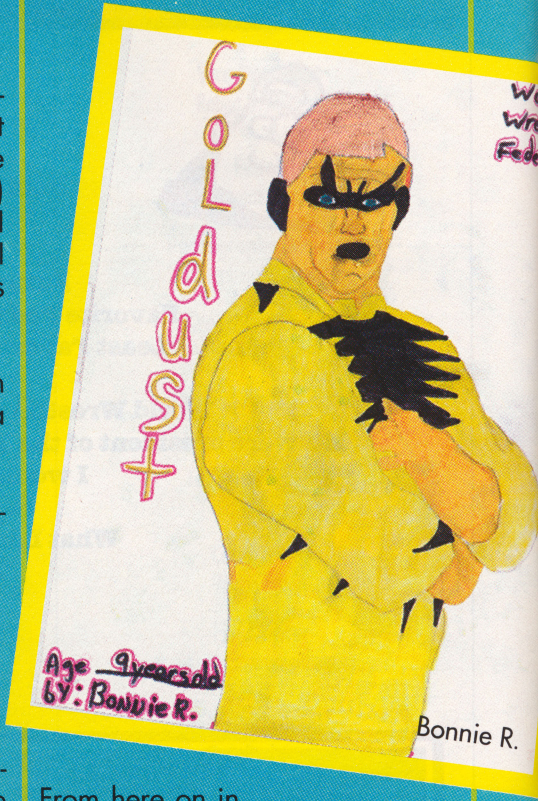
(Inhale deeply!) Remember the name...

Letter:

Dear Editor,
Why don't you have "For Kids Only" by Dallas Hart in the magazine anymore? It was one of my favorite columns!

Mandy Lynn
San Francisco, CA

Dear Mandy,
Have no fear! The reason "For Kids Only" was pulled from the magazine was because Dallas Hart... HAS BEEN PROMOTED!!! From here on in,
Dallas will occasionally be writing full-length feature articles for this publication! What's next for the talented Hart, you ask? Editor, perhaps? I'll tell you what—he's going to have to make me submit to the Sharpshooter first!!!



Bonnie R.

E-mail:

Dear Editor,
In the future, I feel a "Beneath the Skin" interview with Vince McMahon would be both extremely informative and interesting. I have read the transcripts from McMahon's two America Online chats and the cyberspace interview that you conducted with him and found both to be dynamic, riveting and revealing! I believe that other non-computer-friendly readers would find McMahon's in-

ents, and gossip

INTERACTIN' WITH THE WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

sights on the world of sports-entertainment to be nothing short of compelling!

KRASMAN61111

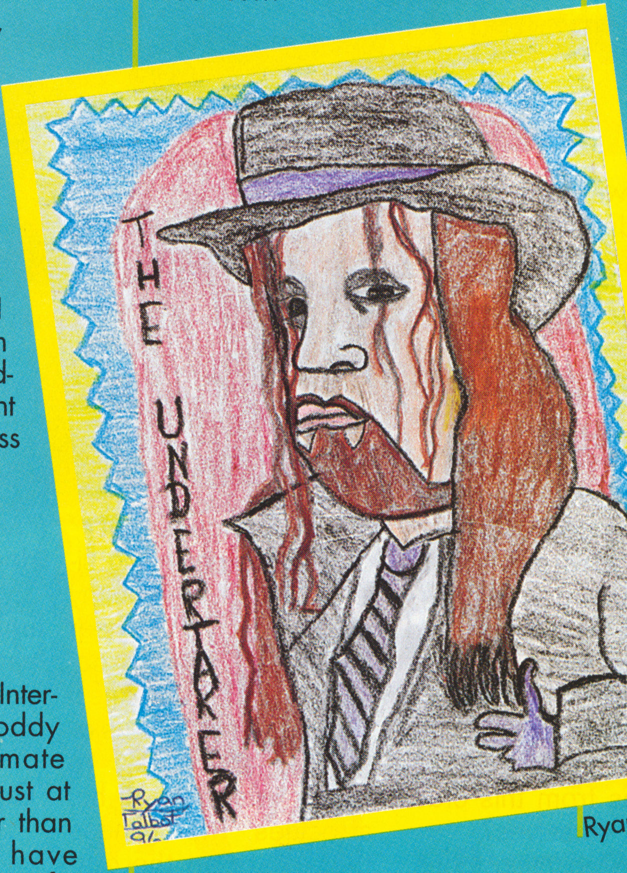
Dear KRASMAN61111,
Already on it, my friend! In the July issue of *World Wrestling Federation Raw*, the not-so-computer-friendly fans will be able to read my "anything goes" interview with Vince McMahon that I recently conducted on America Online! No Federation fans in their right mind would want to miss this baby!!!

Fax

Dear Editor,
Why didn't Federation Interim President Rowdy Roddy Piper choose the Ultimate Warrior to battle Goldust at *WrestleMania XII* rather than himself? This would have proved without a shadow of a doubt whether the Warrior was indeed a true "icon" or if Goldust was a deserving champion.

Laurie Pippitt

Dear Laurie,
See, there you go talking about (inhale deeply) Goldust again! To begin with, Prez Piper was never one to let ANYBODY do his fighting for him. Secondly, at *WrestleMania XII* the Ultimate Warrior did prove—WITHOUT A SHADOW OF A DOUBT—that he is and always will be a Federation icon. And, last but surely not least, Goldust still reigns supreme. Deserving? Like it or not—very much so!!!



Ryan Talbot

E-mail:

Dear Editor,
What ever happened to Shawn Michaels' monthly "Advice to the Lovelorn" column? I really enjoyed that section of the magazine.

Carolyn Amano
Hawaii

Dear Carolyn,
Prior to *WrestleMania*, Shawn asked me if I thought it would be all right for him to take a sabbatical from "Lovelorn" as he prepared for his title match against Bret "Hit Man" Hart. Like a gentleman, I agreed. However, there was one small stipulation... no matter what happened at *Mania*—HE MUST RETURN! In other words, keep your eyes open for yet more adoring advice from the HB Kid!

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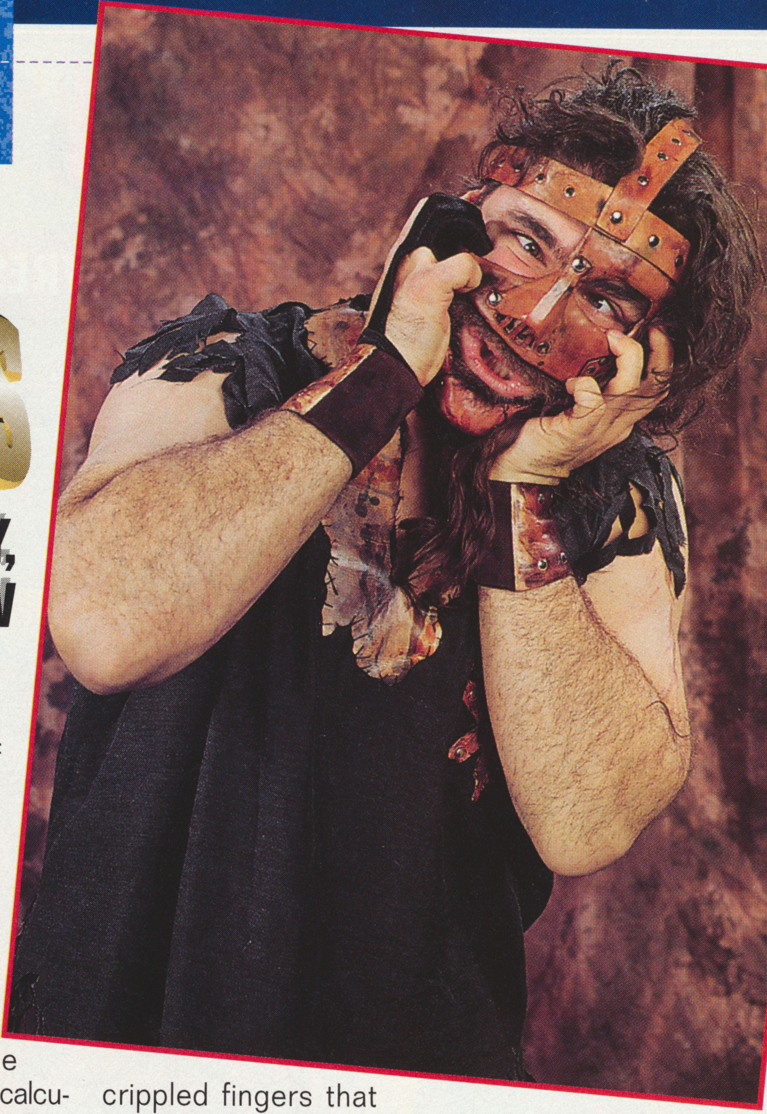
Rookies to LEGENDS

HEROES OF YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW



MANKIND

And on the eighth day God created... Mankind.

With the exception of the Undertaker, no superstar has ever entered the World Wrestling Federation in such a mysterious fashion. Who is he, what is he and why is he here are all questions that surround the "troubled" Mankind.

Perhaps he came from the crusting pages of an ancient gothic novel. Or, better yet, perhaps from the celluloid of a modern-day, plasma-spitting B-film. He exhibits all the qualities and traits of some of the most popular ghouls of our era. A dash of Jason, a sprinkle of Freddy Krueger, a little touch of Hellraiser's Pin-Head, they all exist and appear to live in harmony in his disfigured frame. However, there is more than just ugliness to this beast that they call Mankind... much more. From that damp, cold, cobblestone basement, he shows signs of a madman who may have spilled over from the realm of genius. A Hannibal Lecter so to speak. He's a maniacal and menacing lunatic who at the same time is a cold and calculating strategist. But what is he planning? What is he trying so hard to tell us in his own perverted way? Is Armageddon just around the corner? Or is he going to save us from this cruel world... ourselves?

In decapitating tones, he speaks of a piano—his mommy waking him up so that all her friends could hear the beautiful music. However, suddenly—and perhaps without warning—the music stopped. Was it crippled fingers that caused the deafening silence that made mommy put him away? We hear footsteps above his decaying and deformed skull as he reminds us all that we are merely "a mirror image of all his atrocities. The ugliness that exists on the outside lives inside of every one of you!"

Who ripped the ear from his head—and why? Who caused him to swallow his own teeth? Why is his rat named GEORGE? What does he want with us? Those questions remain unanswered. Unfortunately, to the dismay and misery of us all—they may soon be answered!

On the eighth day God created Mankind?

Only He knows exactly what will happen on the ninth!!!

Superstar:
MANKIND
Height: 6'2"
Weight: 260 lbs.
Hometown:
PARTS UNKNOWN

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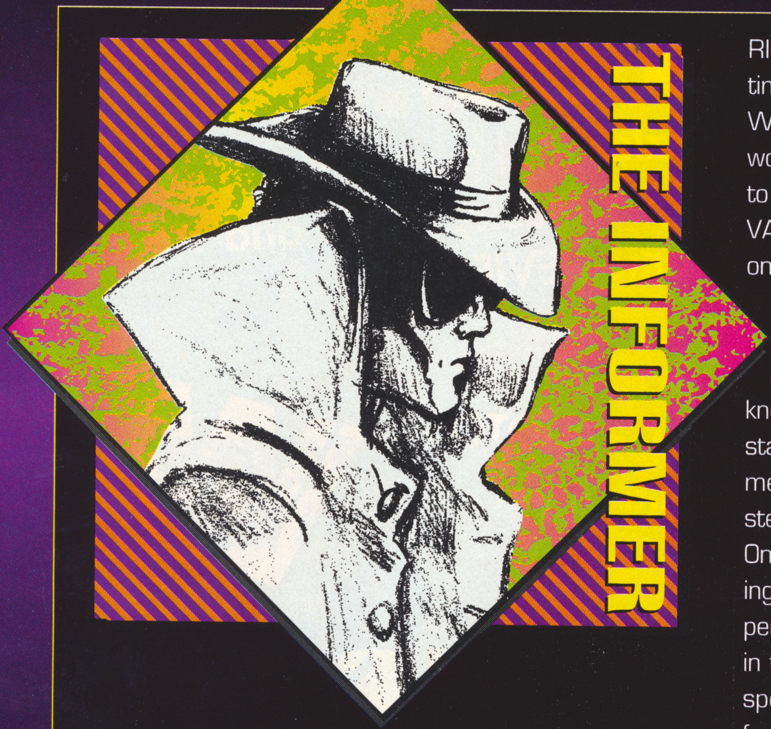
THE INFORMER



The day after *WrestleMania XII*, the new World Wrestling Federation Tag Team Champions the BODY DONNAS got into a bit of a tussle while doing interviews. It appeared that SUNNY demanded that the belts be in her possession, stating that—and I quote—she was solely "responsible" for their winning the belts in the first place. While SKIP kept his feelings hidden, attempting to "go with the flow," ZIP was a tad more vocal. As a matter of fact, he stormed out of the session, refusing to work with "her royal highness"! SKIP immediately went after his partner, and peace was made among the trio—"supposedly." I will keep my eye on this developing situation for you... Rumor circulating hot and heavy around the halls of the World Wrestling Federation is that MR. PERFECT is looking to spend more time on the road these days. Now, before you all get your hopes up, let me explain. It has been reported to me, THE INFORMER, that even though MR. PERFECT may not yet be ready to enter the squared circle again due to his well-documented back injury, he may, however, be ready to become more active in some other capacity. Maybe—MANAGING. That's right! Remember what PERFECT did for the career of RIC FLAIR some five years ago? Well, don't be surprised if history repeats itself. Possible protegé? How about TRIPLE H HUNTER HEARST-HELMSLEY? Hmmm?...You have not seen the last of ROWDY RODDY PIPER in the World Wrestling Federation... I look for a possible feud to once again heat up between the ULTIMATE WARRIOR and JAKE "THE SNAKE" ROBERTS. Remember, before both superstars exited the Federation, they were involved in a bitter war that began when ROBERTS crossed the WARRIOR. Even though many years have passed since that time, I don't believe that either JAKE THE SNAKE or the WARRIOR has forgiven—OR—forgotten!... If I were you, I would go to Las Vegas right now and bet it all on VADER to become the 1996 King of the Ring!... And, speaking of VADER, JAMES E. CORNETTE has assured me that not only will VADER win *King of the Ring*, but he holds the key to the "master plan" that will assure his Mastodon the World Wrestling Federation Championship come *SummerSlam*!... There is more to MANKIND than we know... MUCH more!... Would you believe that a television station in Green Bay, Wisconsin, refuses to air the comments of GOLDUST in its syndicated *Superstars* show. Instead, they replace the words of wisdom of the "Golden One" with public service announcements! Why am I bringing this up, you ask? Good question. Well, it just so happens that GOLDUST will be making a personal appearance in the "City of Cheese" in June, and he promises to have a special surprise for each and every one of his "adoring fans" in attendance—especially a certain television station manager!... Until next time...

BARRED FROM THE BACK

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SUPER DREAM SWEEPSTAKES

Sweepstakes begins 9/1/95, ends 1/15/97. To qualify for the Early Bird Prize, entry must be received by the Early Bird date specified elsewhere in this offer. Winners will be selected in random drawings on 2/28/97 by Ventura Associates Inc., 1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036, an independent judging organization whose decisions are final. Early Bird winner will be selected in a separate drawing from among all qualifying entries. Odds of winning determined by total number of entries received. Distribution not to exceed 300 million.

Estimated maximum retail value of prizes: Grand (1) $25,000 (cash alternative $25,000); First (1) $2,000; Second (1) $750; Third (50) $75; Fourth (1,000) $60; Early Bird (1) $5,000. Actual value of Early Bird subject to location of winner and fares at time of departure. Total prize value: $96,500.

Automobile and travel trailer must be picked up at a local dealer; all other merchandise prizes will be shipped to winners. Awarding of any prize to a minor will require written permission of parent/guardian. If a trip prize is won by a minor, s/he must be accompanied by parent/legal guardian as minor's guest. Trip prizes subject to availability and must be completed within 12 months of date awarded. Blackout dates may apply. Early Bird trip is on a space available basis and does not include personal purchases or incidentals. Prizes are not transferable or redeemable for cash except as specified. No substitution for prizes except as necessary due to unavailability. Travel trailer and/or automobile license and registration fees are winners' responsibility as are any other incidental expenses not specified herein.

Early Bird Prize may not be offered in some creative presentations of this sweepstakes. Grand through Third prize winners will have the option of selecting any prize offered at level won. All prizes will be awarded. Drawing will be held at 204 Center Square Road, Bridgeport, NJ 08014. Winners need not be present. For winners list (available in June, 1997), send a self-addressed, stamped envelope by 1/15/97 to: Super Dream Winners, P.O. Box 713, Gibbstown, NJ 08027.

THE FOLLOWING APPLIES TO THE SWEEPSTAKES ABOVE:

No purchase or contribution necessary. No photocopied or mechanically reproduced entries will be accepted. Not responsible for lost, late, misdirected, damaged, incomplete, illegible or postage-due mail. Entries become the property of sponsors and will not be returned. Winner(s) will be notified by mail. Winner(s) may be required to sign and return an affidavit of eligibility/release within 14 days of date on notification or an alternate may be selected. Except where prohibited by law, entry constitutes permission to use of winners' names, hometowns and likenesses for publicity without additional compensation. Void where prohibited or restricted. All federal, state, provincial and local laws and regulations apply. All prize values are in U.S. Currency. Creative presentation of sweepstakes may vary; values at a given prize level will be approximately the same. All taxes on prizes are winners' responsibility. Canadian residents, in order to win, must first correctly answer a time-limited skill testing question administered by mail. Any litigation regarding the conduct and awarding of a prize in this publicity contest by a resident of the province of Quebec may be submitted to the Regie des loteries et courses du Quebec.

Sweepstakes is open to legal residents of the U.S., Canada, and Europe (in those areas where made available) who have received this offer. Sweepstakes may be presented in different creative presentations by different organizations. Ventura Associates Inc., the independent judging organization, has provided all prizes at no charge. Employees of presenting organizations, their advertising agencies and promotional companies involved in this promotion, and their immediate families, agents, successors, and assignees shall be ineligible to participate in the promotion and shall not be eligible for any prizes covered herein.

Official Entry Form

☐ **Yes!** I want to win the GMC Sierra 4WD Pickup Truck or $25,000 CASH or any one of over 1,000 other fabulous prizes! And I want World Wrestling Federation Magazine at savings of up to 58% off the newsstand price!

☐ 24 issues at $35.00/Save 58%　☐ 12 issues $19.97/Save 52%

☐ Check/Money order enclosed　☐ Bill me later

Charge my:　☐ VISA　☐ Master Card

Account # ____________________ Expiration Date

Signature ____________________

Name ____________________ Date of Birth __/__/__

Address ____________________

City ____________________ State __________ Zip __________

☐ Check here to enter Sweepstakes without subscribing and return to: TitanSports, Inc., World Wrestling Federation Magazine, P.O. Box 420172, Palm Coast, FL 32142-0172. One entry per envelope.

If ordering, Send payment to: TitanSports, Inc. at World Wrestling Federation Magazine, P.O. Box 420172, Palm Coast, FL 32142-0172.

Basic U.S. subscription rate is 12 issues/$24, single copy price $3.50. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. In Canada: 12/$43.00CDN (includes 7% GST); 24/$68.00 CDN (includes 7% GST). Foriegn: 12/$38.40 and 24/$70.80. U.S. Funds only. No foriegn credit orders.

H6SWPS

TALES FROM THE TURNBUCKLE

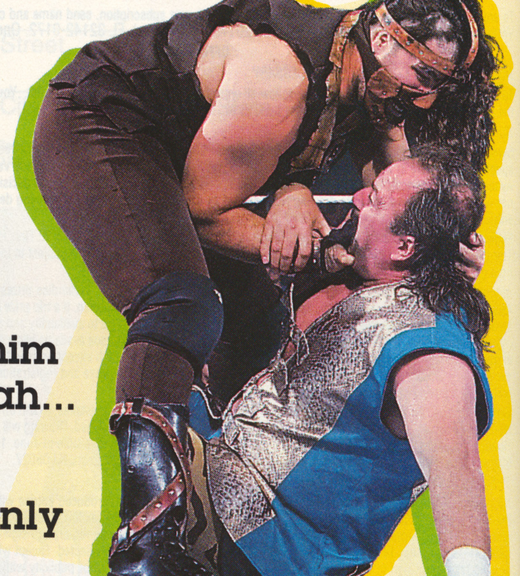
All You Need To Know

You Don't Say

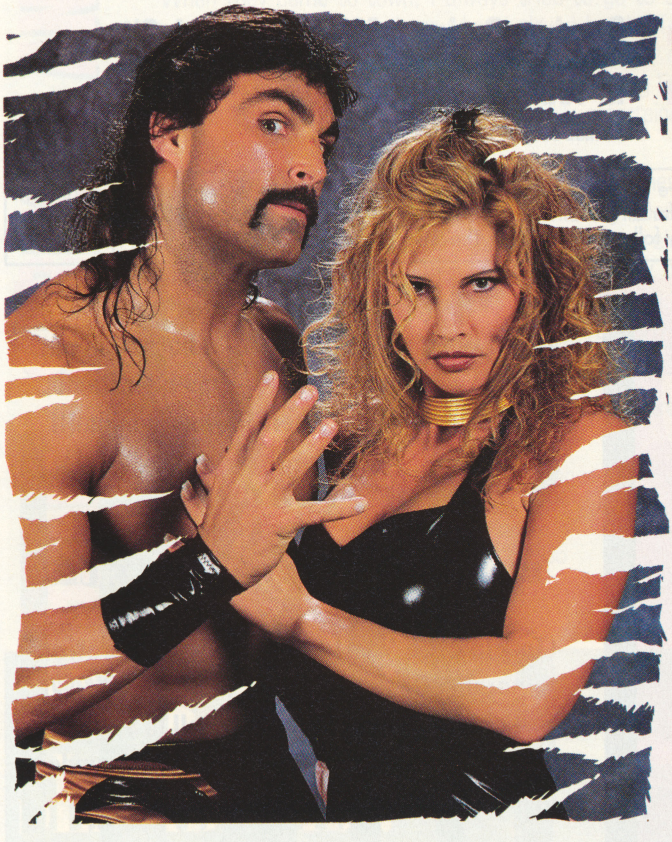
VERY EARLY ON IN HER CAREER, PRIOR TO HER ESTABLISHING A BIG-TIME NAME FOR HERSELF, MARLENA WORKED AS A MAKE-UP ARTIST ON... THE LARRY KING SHOW. APPARENTLY, NOT EVEN SHE COULD DO ANYTHING WITH HIS HAIR!!!

Top 5 Reasons Why Mankind Will Never Play Piano For The New York Philharmonic

1. He doesn't own a tuxedo.
2. He'll have a hard time tickling the ivories with two of his fingers shoved down the tuba player's throat.
3. He's tone deaf from having only one ear.
4. Hitting the wrong notes might make him pull his hair out of his head... oh, yeah... right... he does that anyway.
5. Symphony music bores George. He only rocks to the GOOD RATS!!!



There's A Wildman On The Loose!



LOOK INTO HIS EYES... IF YOU DARE.

The inferno that once ignited his eyes has been smothered by something much more intense—much more WILD!!! Like a striking panther, **MARC MERO** has recently arrived on the scene in the **World Wrestling Federation**, and now that the shackles have been busted... *NOBODY IS SAFE!!!*

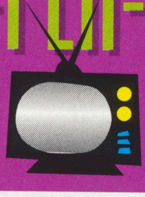
MERO, who made his first appearance at **WrestleMania XII**, claims to have been waiting five long years to be unleashed in the wilds of the **World Wrestling Federation.** "The barriers of my career have been broken, and now I'm just looking to explode." Ironically, moments after stating that, **MERO** was put to the test. While being interviewed by Todd Pettengill, the Wildman was accidentally interrupted by **Hunter Hearst-Helmsley**, who was lambasting his valet for the night, claiming that she was the lone cause for his **WrestleMania** defeat. It didn't take long for the two to engage in a heated battle, and before **Hunter** knew what hit him, he found himself being driven into a steel barrier by the charging **MERO**.

Evidently, there must have been some kind of an "animal attraction" between **MERO** and **Hunter's Mania** valet, as the striking feline showed up at his match the next night on **RAW**. BUT trophies don't leave **Hunter's** case that easily. However, in looking to make amends with the beauty, the beast was slapped right across the face. Then, to add insult to **Hunter's** injury, she jumped into the arms of **MARC MERO**, and her "Wild" hero quickly whisked her away to safety.

Soon thereafter, we learned that the sheik woman calls herself **SABLE**, and she claims that her "tame fire from within" was set ablaze when she first laid eyes on the Wildman. Now the two appear to draw some mysterious power from each other, a power that **MERO** calls the "call of the wild."

Talk about ***"Cat Scratch Fever"!***

HOW TO ORDER PAY-PER-VIEW



1 **Call your local cable company. Your cable operator will have specific information on how to order and the cost of each event. You can also check your last month's cable bill for a special ordering phone number for your system's pay-per-view events.**

2 **For satellite dish reception, via the larger C-Band dishes, call:**

PRIME TIME 24
1-800-989-7526

3 **For direct satellite reception, via the smaller KU-Band dishes, call:**

DIRECT TV
1-800-347-3288

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION PAY•PER 1996 VIEW

May 26th	In Your House • Florence, SC
June 23rd	King of the Ring • Milwaukee, WI
July 21st	In Your House • Vancouver, BC
Aug. 18th	SummerSlam • Cleveland, OH
Sept. 22nd	In Your House • Newark, DE
Oct. 20th	In Your House • Site TBD
Nov. 17th	Survivor Series • MSG, New York City
Dec. 15th	In Your House • Site TBD

Venues subject to change

1) All events are on Sunday at 7pm ET. 2) Replays for all in Your House events at 9pm ET. 3) Replays for all five other events are at 10pm ET. 4) Encores for all five other events are the Tuesday following the event. The times of the encores are 8pm and 11pm ET.

quote of the month

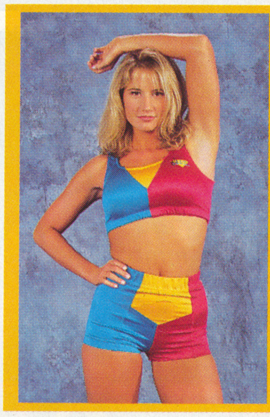
"Big Daddy Cool and I were once good buddies. A regular Skipper and Gilligan. Well, my friends... the USS Minnow has definitely sunk!"

—Shawn Michaels on "good friend, now better enemy" Diesel.

If you want to advance in the bodyslammin' World Wrestling Federation Superstar Game... store this clue somewhere in your cranium!!!

WHEN YOU GET TO THE BADLANDS... BE PREPARED TO SADDLE UP.

(To play the World Wrestling Federation Superstar Game, just call 1-900-737-4WWF and choose option No. 3. The call is $1.49 per minute and children 18 years of age or under must have their parent's permission.)



HI, I'M SUNNY, CALL ME!!!

World Wrestling Federation collectible phone cards are now available!!!

For more information call:

1-800-211-5910.

BALLS, STRIKES AND BODYSLAMS

Not only is future Hall of Famer Bert Blyleven a huge World Wrestling Federation fan, BUT the two-time world series winner has recently found himself a bodyslammin' business partner of ours!

Along with associate Steve Bergman, Blyleven is now the proud owner of Up Front Sports and Entertainment, a company out of Anaheim, California, that specializes in various kinds of sport and entertainment paraphernalia. Some of its items include: Harlem Globetrotter cards, Nascar cards and the ever-so-popular World Wrestling Federation Shawn Michaels pop-up, which was packaged with the April issue of World Wrestling Federation Magazine. Why Shawn Michaels, you ask? "I'm a huge fan of his," said Blyleven. "I always like to be the front runner.

"All kidding aside, growing up in Minnesota, I was a big fan of the World Wrestling Federation," continued Blyleven. "When they came to town, I always tried to go to a live event. Then, many years later when I played for the Twins, many of the wrestlers would come to visit our locker room when they were in town. To me, the World Wrestling Federation is one of the greatest forms of family entertainment that there is!"

When asked how he would compare owning a business to playing in the big leagues, Blyleven had this to say: "Baseball was simple compared to business. It was always relaxing and fun. Business, on the other hand, is completely different. It's contacts, hard work and a continuous hard sell."

Well, Bert, I'm willing to bet that you have THE PITCH to back it up! Get it?

For more information on Up Front Sports and Entertainment write to:

Richard Round, Business & Marketing Manager
Up Front Sports and Entertainment
1743 S. Douglass Rd., Anaheim, CA 92806
Or call: (714) 978-2828

READY TO ATTACK YOUR TOWN!

May

12TH–Binghamton, NY
17TH–Baltimore, MD
18TH–Philadelphia, PA
–Hershey, PA
19TH–New York, NY
26TH–Florence, SC
(In Your House)
27TH–Fayetteville, NC
(Raw)
28TH–N. Charleston, SC
(Superstars)
29TH–Savannah, GA
30TH–West Palm Beach, FL
31st–Sunrise, FL

June

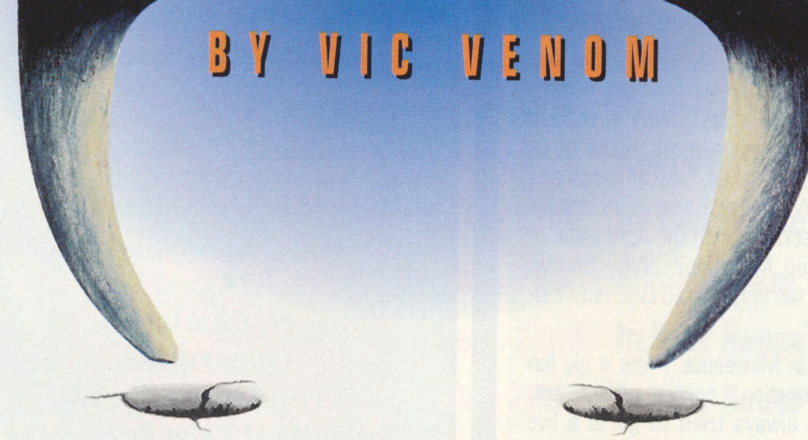
1ST–Tampa, FL
2ND–Orlando, FL
6TH–St. Louis, MO
7TH–Peoria, IL
8TH–Moline, IL
9TH–Rosemont, IL
13TH–Salt Lake City, UT
14TH–Denver, CO
15TH–Phoenix, AZ
16TH–Yuma, AZ

FREE SLAMBUCKS!

If you buy the **May In Your House**, you will be eligible for **$5 in Slambucks** good for use on any World Wrestling Federation merchandise item. You will also receive a **FREE** Federation merchandise catalog, which features all the brand-new stuff.

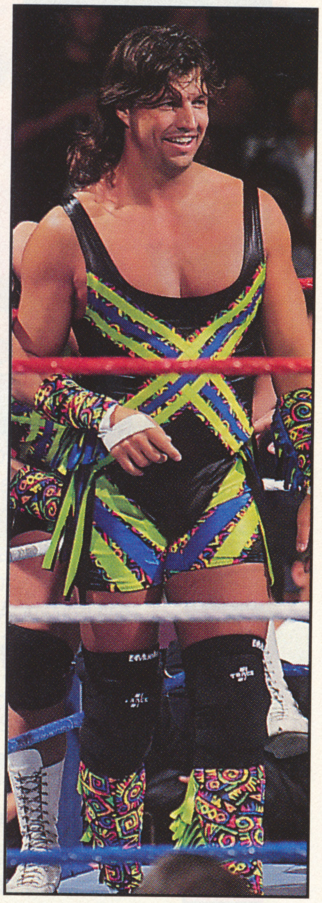
To enter, you must send in a copy of your cable or satellite bill as proof of purchase of the May IYH to: World Wrestling Federation, c/o Pineapple, 568 Broadway, New York, NY 10012. We must receive all entries by July 30.

THE BITE



BY VIC VENOM

Has anybody identified exactly what language it is that AHMED JOHNSON is speaking? If you have, will you please let me know? I mean, I'm not putting the punk down or anything like that—it just seems to me like there's an eight-man marble tournament going on inside his mouth—or something—AT ALL TIMES!!! It's nothing that several DECADES of speech lessons wouldn't cure—I'M SURE!



Now on to some more important matters.

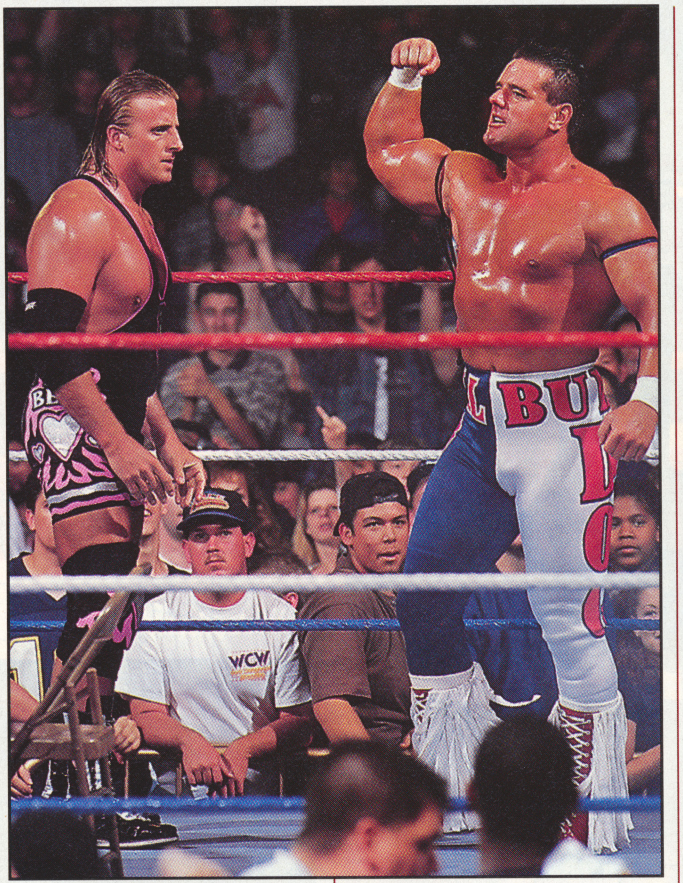
Can you believe that certain television stations around the country refuse to air the comments of one... GOLDUST? What, are these imbeciles kidding me? Who died and made them censors? Just because they "don't get" what GOLDUST is saying and his dialogue is WAY TOO DEEP for them doesn't give them the right to decide if millions of others should or shouldn't listen!!! That's HORSE !@#$%!!! If people don't like what GOLDUST is saying, then they can just change the channel, BUT

THE PUBLIC SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO THAT OPTION!!! Nobody is God, and nobody should decide what others watch!!! That is, of course, unless your bath towels are monogrammed with the initials V.V.!!!

Is JOSE LOTHARIO alive, or is this "Weekend at Super Socks"? Have you ever seen anybody move more slowly? I mean, the Iron Man Match was almost over before JOSE even made it to the ring! I'm tellin' ya, unless he had a wicked foot odor problem, only God knows why they called him Super Sock in his day!

You know what? I've seen the ULTIMATE return. And you know what else? I think I could take him!!!

I don't want to step on any SKIRTS here, but I've just got to get this one thing off my genius mind: SUNNY, you're hot—NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, but you AIN'T the reason that SKIP and ZIP are the World Wrestling Federation Tag Team Champions!!! I don't know if anybody's ever told you this or not, BUT matches are won on the INSIDE of the squared circle not on the ring apron!!! And, speaking of aprons, if you don't get back in line, SKIP and ZIP may be puttin' ya back in one REAL SOON!!!



I kinda like WILDMAN MARC MERO. I mean, who wouldn't like a guy who goes with a chick like that? It's a shame that SABLE is gonna drop him like a bad habit once she fixes her sights on the GREAT ONE!!!

Even the GREAT VIC VENOM has to tip his black hat to SHAWN MICHAELS and BRET HART. Their gutsy performances in the Federation's first-ever Iron Man Match made me proud to be associated with the World Wrestling Federation. When it comes to work ethic, nobody does it better than these two guys! GOD, I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT I SAID THAT!!!

Is it just me, or does everybody want to be like LEIF CASSIDY?

Speaking about Kings, I was recently sitting in some dumpy arena in San Diego, and I was appalled by the lack of respect that you lowlifes show toward JAMES E. CORNETTE, OWEN HART and the BRITISH BULLDOG!!! These three men represent the class of the World Wrestling Federation, and the way in which you chose to show them your appreciation just SICKENS ME!!! If by any chance these three superstars should ever again come to your hole of a town, be sure to stand on the top of your seat, cheer wildly and make them feel at home—otherwise, they may NEVER, EVER return!!!

Why on an airplane do they insist on making you wear a seat belt? If the big bird decides to go down, is a piece of vinyl around your waist really gonna help you break a 35,000-foot fall?!!! And, while I'm on the subject, why do I have to have my seat back in the UPRIGHT position before taking off and landing?!!! I HATE THAT!!! AND why are the only magazines on the plane—THE ONES THAT PEOPLE DON'T READ?!!!

What? Am I... Jerry Seinfeld?

See ya later, PUNKS!!! WF

To hear Vic Venom and get his unique insight, call him every Thursday thru Sunday on the World Wrestling Federation Superstars Line at 1 900-737-4WWF, and choose option number 4—Beyond the Pages of the World Wrestling Federation Magazine. (Call is $1.49 per minute. You must be 18 years of age or have your parent's permission before you call.)

IN THE LINE OF FIRE

TA

Bitters, Arkansas. A town acres and acres away from all the glitz and glamour of the World Wrestling Federation. A quaint little place where the only ring that exists is around your collar—after a torturous, sweaty day on the farm. But to a pair of good ol' country boys who specialize in pig farmin', they just don't see it that way! To Henry Godwinn and his cousin Phineas, the Federation has become a pen away from the pen. Not only did they make themselves at home, but they brought their entire family along with them. Hillbilly Jim, Pot Belly, Priscilla and Elmer (no relation to their late friend)—a Kentucky legend, two pigs and a huntin' dog! It may not be Green Acres, but to the Godwinns, the "World Wrasslin' Federation" is the place to be.

I recently caught up with the country trio—and their critters—moments before an important match with the Body Donnas. Here is what they had to say:

EDITOR: What exactly is it that brings two pig farmers from Bitters, Arkansas, into the World Wrestling Federation?

HENRY: When I was younger, I always looked up to Hillbilly Jim. He was my idol... I always wanted to be like him! Then one day when I finally got the opportunity to meet him, he told me, "Heck, you CAN be like me! I'll teach you everythin' I know, and you can make your own mark in

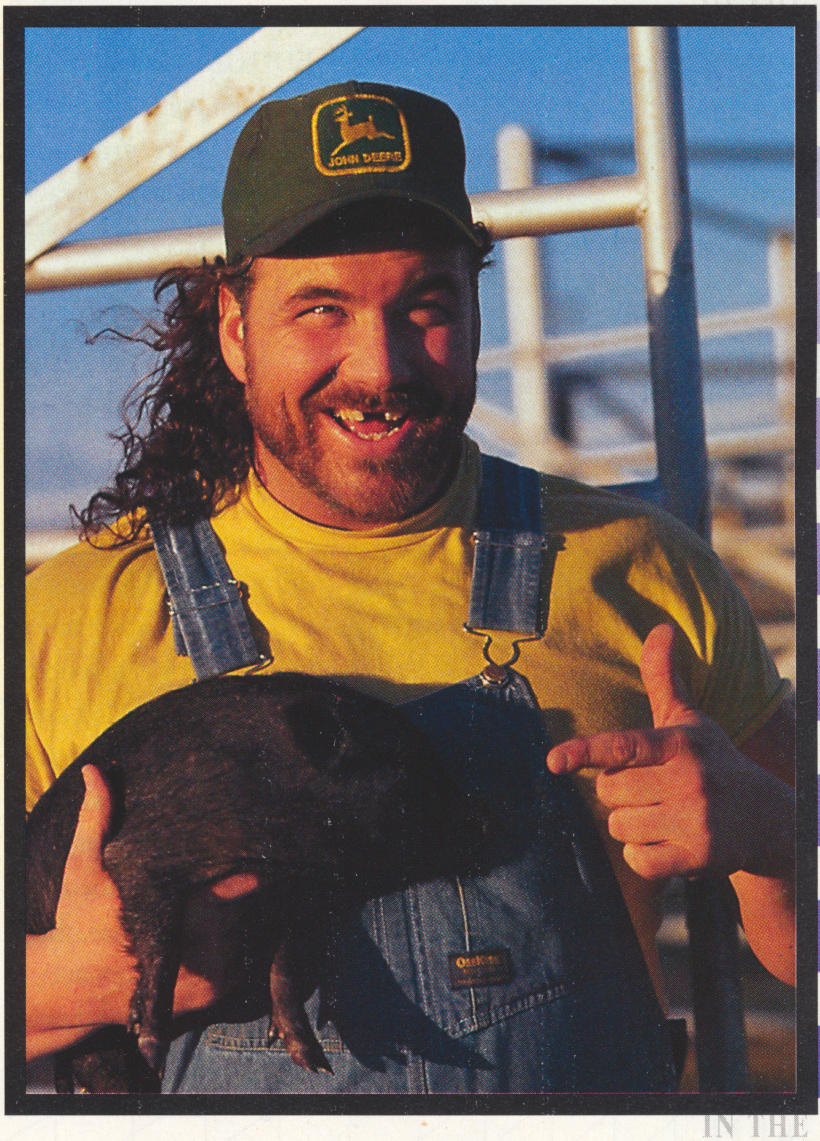
ARGET:

THE GODWINNS AND HILLBILLY JIM

the World Wrasslin' Federation!" So, I figured what the heck, and I took him up on it! Once I was on my way, I then brought in my cousin Phineas. We're all just tryin' to keep the Hillbilly tradition alive and well here in the World Wrasslin' Federation!

PHINEAS: That's right, cousin! Being the new hillbilly on the block, I'm just havin' a good ol' time! After I tended to the pigs, PawPaw said it was all right if I came up here to join Henry! He's been takin' care of me ever since!

EDITOR: Aren't you at all concerned about your wrestling ability? As you surely know, there are many well-trained wrestlers here in the Federation. I mean, there's a lot more to

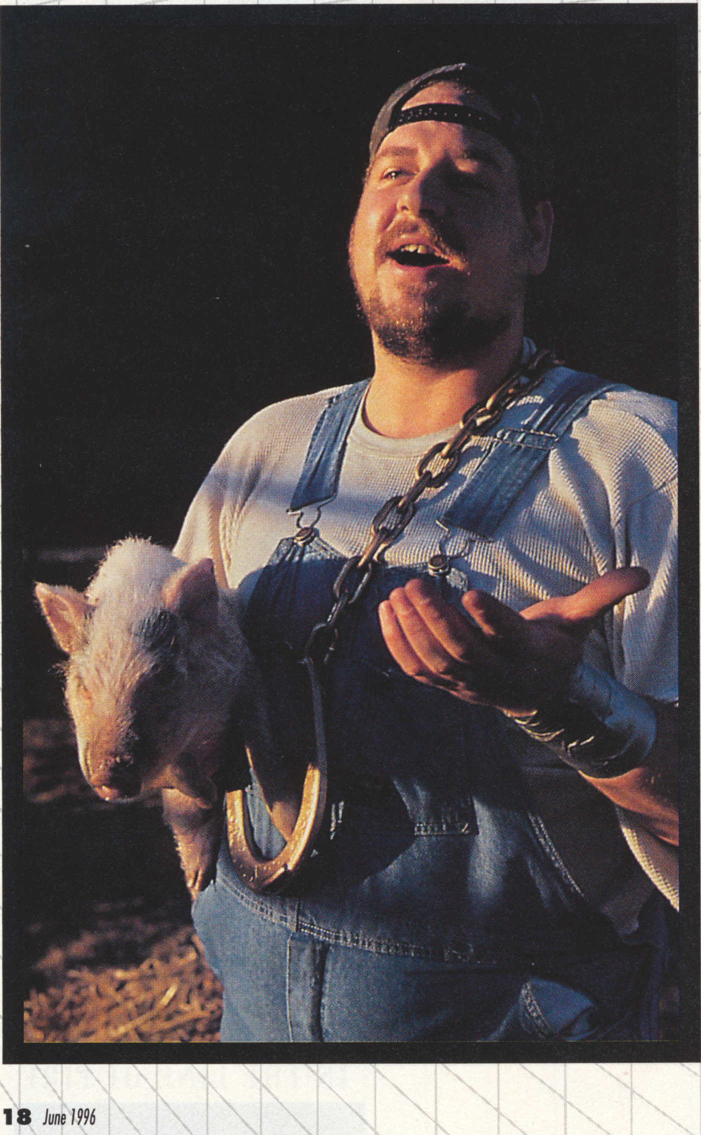


it than just plain brawlin'!

PHINEAS: Our wrasslin' might not be as polished as some of the athletes in the World Wrasslin' Federation, but as Hillbilly told us, "A good scuffler could always hold his own against a good wrassler!"

HENRY: We're learnin' some moves! The slop-drop has turned into one of the best moves in the pen!

EDITOR: These days you have been involved in a bitter feud with the Body Donnas. How do you plan to get the advantage over such sound technical high fliers like Skip and Zip?



HENRY: You furgot to mention mischievous and cheatin'! As long as Hillbilly keeps an eye on that Sunny, we're gonna be able to take those two good ol' boys down a notch!

PHINEAS: That's right. We also have the size over those two little varmints!

EDITOR: Speaking of Hillbilly Jim, what was it that made you return to the World Wrestling Federation after all these years?

HILLBILLY JIM: Well, it all started when they asked me to referee that Arkansas Hog Pen match at December's In Your House. From there, I just really enjoyed spendin' time with Henry so much that I thought I'd make myself a permanent fixture! He was a good ol' boy that just needed a few little things. He wasn't quite sure of exactly what he should do in that wrasslin' ring. I think the word is "naive." From there, things just seemed to work out!

EDITOR: Hillbilly, having been in the World Wrestling Federation before, what are some of the major changes you see since you were in your prime?

HILLBILLY JIM: There are a lot of differences, all of them being positive. There are so many great young athletes who can do all kinds of things! However, the fans surely haven't changed! They're just as happy and enthused as they always were! I just feel the energy! I'm all fired up!

EDITOR: Are you fired up enough to ever put on your working overalls again? Perhaps if Henry and Phineas got in a situation where they were in over their heads?

HILLBILLY JIM: Well, let me say this about that. First of all, this goes a lot deeper than me just steppin' through the ropes. We're country folks, ya know what I mean? Where we come from, we always help out one another!

It don't make no difference where it's at, when it's at or what it is that needs to be done! We just kinda get behind each other! That's

TARGET:

THE GODWINNS AND HILLBILLY JIM

the way of life for us people! The World Wrasslin' Federation is now, but country boys are forever!

EDITOR: Does that go for critters too? Do you really think a wrestling ring is the place for animals?

HENRY: Heck, yes! This is a big experience for them! Plus, we like to show them off now and again! What we're doin' is bringin' the farm to the people, and there ain't nothin' wrong with that! Heck, I know a lot of these city folk have never even seen a "live" farm animal before!

PHINEAS: That's right, Henry! Our critters are people too, and they also enjoy a night out!

EDITOR: OK, maybe I can understand the animals, but how about the overalls? Why not buy some tights?

HILLBILLY JIM: That's just the way we are! We're down home folks! We're proud to let people know where we're from! We ain't gonna change! We're just gonna do some good, honest, down home scufflin'!

We're gonna lay it on the line! And I'm gonna say this about that: Right now I'm as happy as a pig in... mud—if you know what I mean! These boys would pull a plow for ya, and that's all that matters!

HENRY: Hillbilly's right! Me and Phineas, we love our family, we love our critters and we love our hillbilly fans! We're proud of who we are, and we ain't gonna change one bit!

PHINEAS: *Suee-Wee!*

ICON!

THE RETURN OF THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

BY KEITH ELLIOT GREENBERG

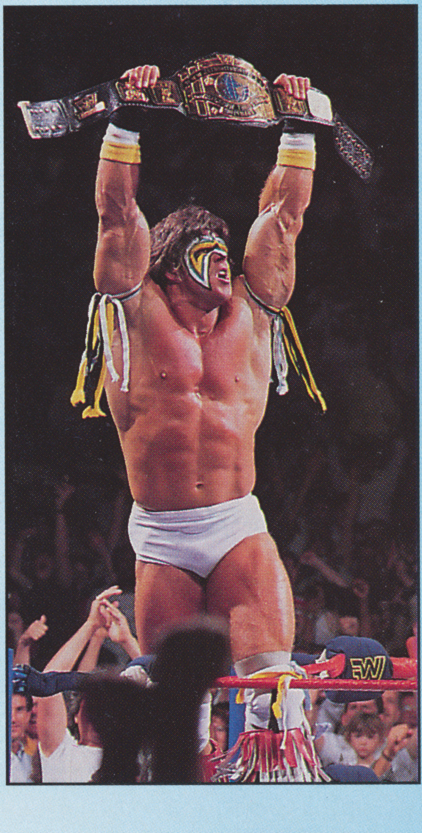
It seemed like old times. The fans rose to their feet and shouted to the heavens as the Ultimate Warrior's name was announced to the electrified crowd at *WrestleMania XII*. Six years earlier at the same event, he flattened Hulk Hogan to capture the World Wrestling Federation Championship. One year after that, he forced Randy Savage out of the mat game in a "loser must retire" match. Now the conqueror of self-proclaimed immortals had returned, poised to write the second chapter of an extraordinary saga.

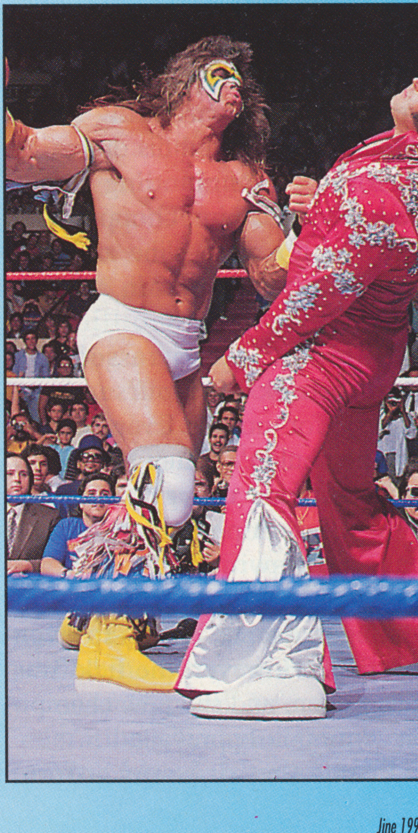
The opening pages of Chapter One take place in 1988, when the intergalactic gladiator was confronted by Hercules, one of the mightiest wrestlers of the era and, thus, a natural rival for the man of granite. With the encouragement of his manager Bobby "The Brain" Heenan, Hercules waged a vicious assault on the Warrior, wrapping a heavy chain around his neck and choking him. The average athlete would have been rushed to the emergency room, but the Warrior was anything but average. Immediately after the attack, Warrior rose from the mat, pounced on Hercules in the aisle and pounded him all the way back to the dressing room.

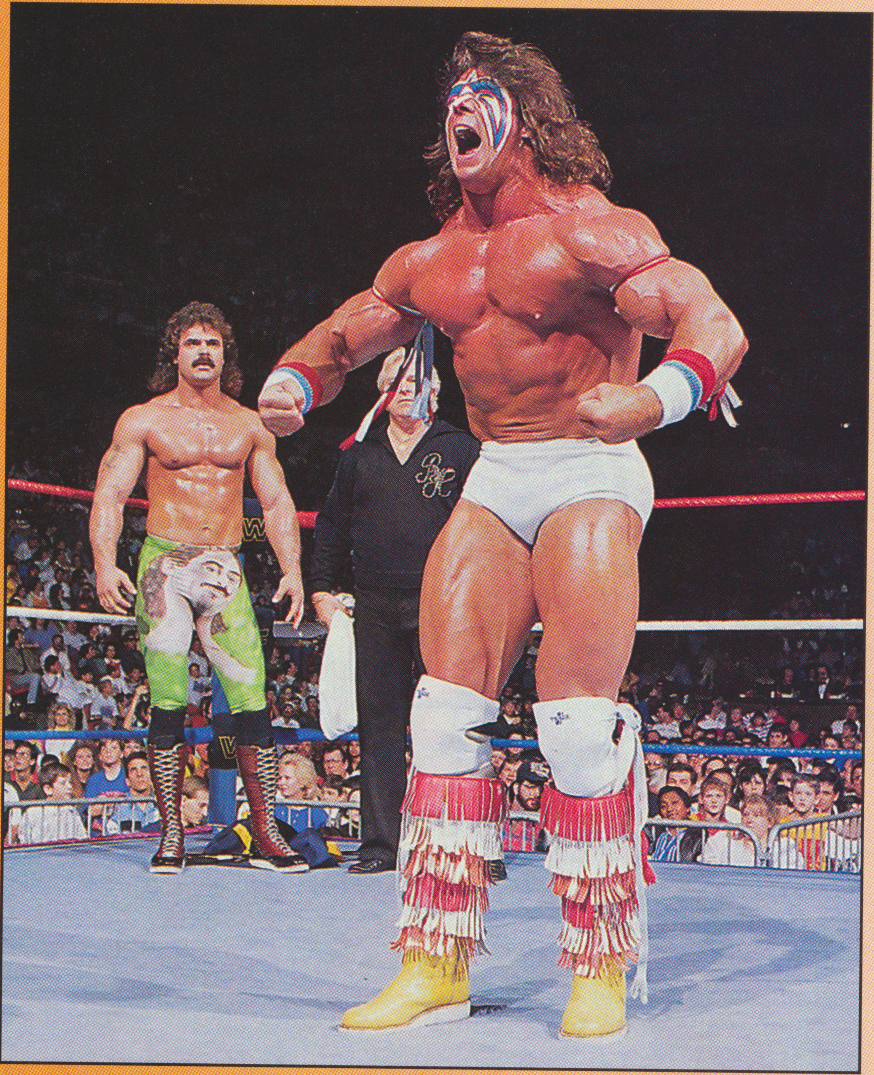
The punishment didn't end there. Warrior bested his adversary in a memorable contest at *WrestleMania IV*. Then, a short time later, the human meteor gained a measure of revenge against Heenan, defeating him in a match where the manager—known to his detractors as the "Weasel"—was stuffed into a weasel suit after the closing bell.

By this point, everyone in the World Wrestling Federation acknowledged that the Warrior would be wearing a championship belt in the very near future. It was in the stars. The only question was: When will the dramatic moment take place?

The Warrior provided the answer at *SummerSlam '88*. World Wrestling Federation Intercontinental Champion the Honky Tonk Man had signed to wrestle Brutus "The Barber" Beefcake, but Beefcake was injured before the match. "Get me any replacement you want," the arrogant titlist told Federation officials.







"Nobody—nobody—can beat the Honky Tonk Man."

The Ultimate Warrior could. Seconds after careening down the aisle, he blasted his opponent with three commanding rights, bodyslammed him, chopped him down with a clothesline and covered him for the pin. In a heartbeat, it was over.

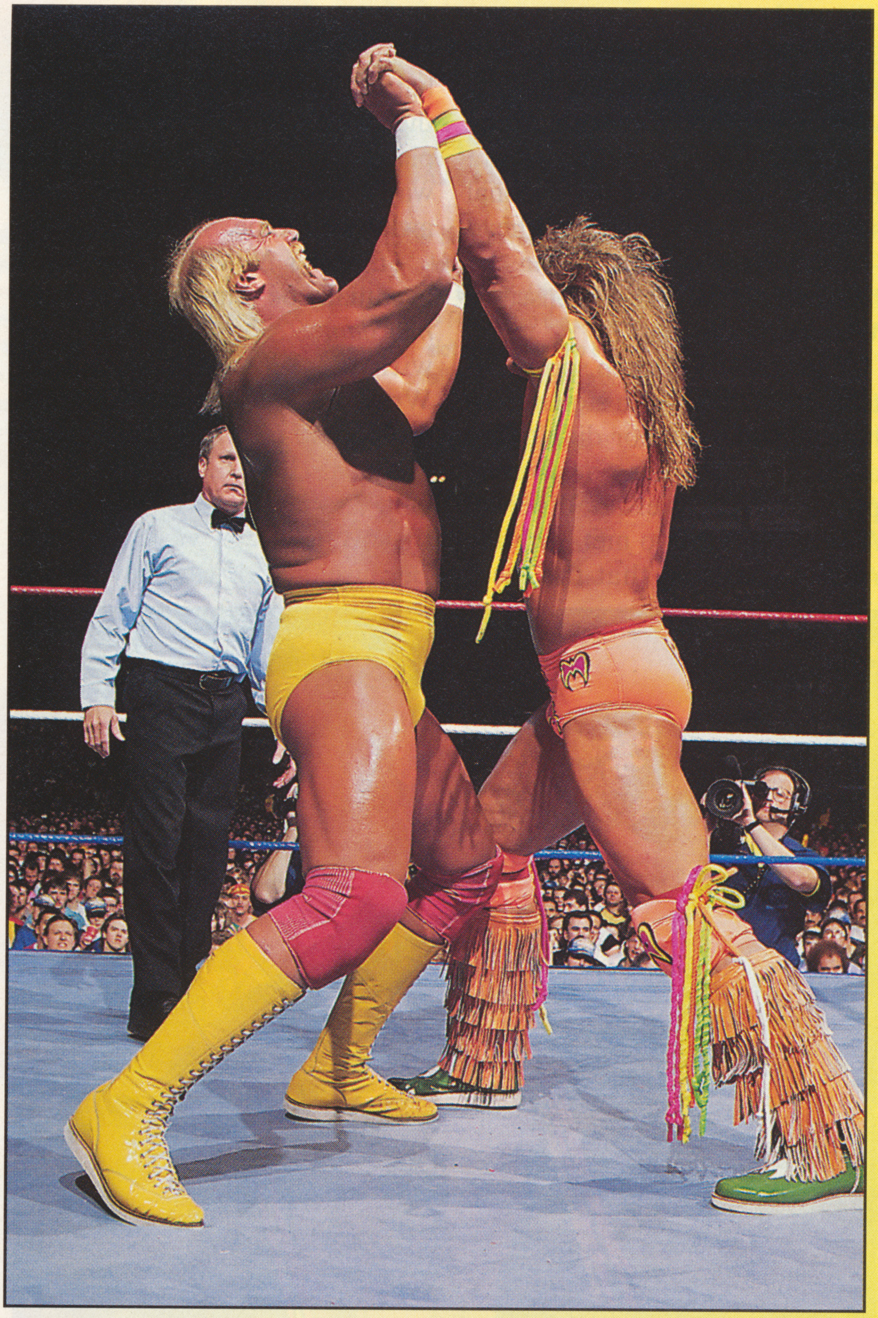
Bitter and embarrassed, the Honky Tonk Man pursued the Warrior for months. Ever mindful that he couldn't match his enemy in strength or energy, the grappling Elvis impersonator relied on guitar-swinging sneak attacks—and the interference of manager Jimmy Hart—to even the field. However, the field was never even, and the new champion continuously prevailed.

From the dressing room, Heenan was always watching, having never forgotten the humiliation of the weasel suit debacle. In early 1989, the manager had a new protegé, Ravishing Rick Rude. Like Hercules, this man also had an admirable physique and seemed obsessed with outshining the Warrior.

Challenging the Intercontinental champ to a simple match was too easy. Instead, Rude and the Warrior squared off in a "Super Posedown" at the 1989 *Royal Rumble*. Both took turns flexing as the fans rated the respective performances with either cheers or catcalls. With the audience firmly behind the Warrior, Heenan was suddenly hit with the realization that he was going to be embarrassed again. So he squirted baby oil into the Warrior's eyes, while Rude knocked him out with an exercise bar.

The Warrior woke up with his head throbbing and his blood boiling. The World Wrestling Federation officials who were unfortunate enough to be hovering over him were swiftly whacked aside. The Warrior wanted Rude—and the champ was willing to put up his belt for the opportunity to tear his tormentor apart at *WrestleMania V*.

The Ravishing One needed a plan, and Heenan was willing to supply one. At the close of their brawl at the pay-per-view extravaganza, Warrior sent his adversary sailing from the ring with a clothesline. As Rude scrambled



back onto the apron, Warrior met him at the ropes and prepared to suplex him into the ring. That's when Heenan made his move—tripping the Warrior and holding his legs as the referee registered the three-count.

Warrior was a former champion, not due to his lack of ability, but because of the deviousness of a ringside nuisance. He set his sights on recapturing the title and achieved his goal swiftly.

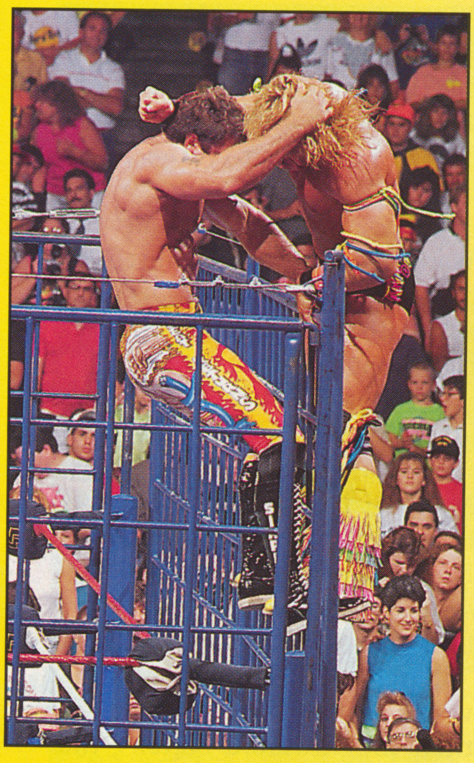
Nothing could shoot down this soaring star. Wrestlers like the late Dino Bravo—billed as "the world's strongest man"—and the massive Earthquake attempted to derail the powerhouse's rise to glory and were quickly toppled. Many fans proclaimed that the Warrior was the most popular wrestler in the World Wrestling Federation—a situation that would inevitably place him in conflict with the Federation Champion at the time, Hulk Hogan, a man renowned for his ego as well as his legdrop.

The two tried acting like friends, but it didn't work. During a tag team match against Mr. Perfect and the Genius, Hogan was thrown from the ring, and Warrior had to take over for his team. Tearing up the mat like a raging tornado, Warrior clotheslined both of his opponents. When Hogan returned to the ring, the Warrior couldn't put himself on pause. He barreled into his partner, clotheslining him before realizing what had occurred.

Although the two shook hands after the misunderstanding, the fans wanted to see them tangle. Many of Hogan's followers believed that he was slowing down. Hogan was great in the '80s, they said, but the '90s definitely belonged to the Warrior.

Much to Hogan's dismay, the words seemed to have merit. In their long-awaited match—the main event of *WrestleMania VI*, April 1, 1990, at Toronto's SkyDome—the Warrior proved that he wasn't like Hogan's other opponents. At the end of the contest, the champion attempted to finish off his rival with a legdrop—the maneuver that Hogan predictably used to win virtually every match. But the Warrior was ready, rolling out of the way. A stunned Hogan plummeted to the mat as Warrior ran the ropes and delivered a big splash. With the challenger hooking his leg, Hogan tried raising his shoulders from the canvas. He couldn't. In front of 67,678 fans in the SkyDome—and millions more who were watching on pay-per-view—the Ultimate Warrior revealed himself as the better man.

History had been made. The Ultimate Warrior was the first competitor to hold both the World Wrestling Federation Title and the Intercontinental Title simultaneously. He soon relinquished the Intercontinental Belt to concentrate on defending the Federation Championship, conquering his old nemesis Rick



Rude in a spectacular cage match at *SummerSlam '90*.

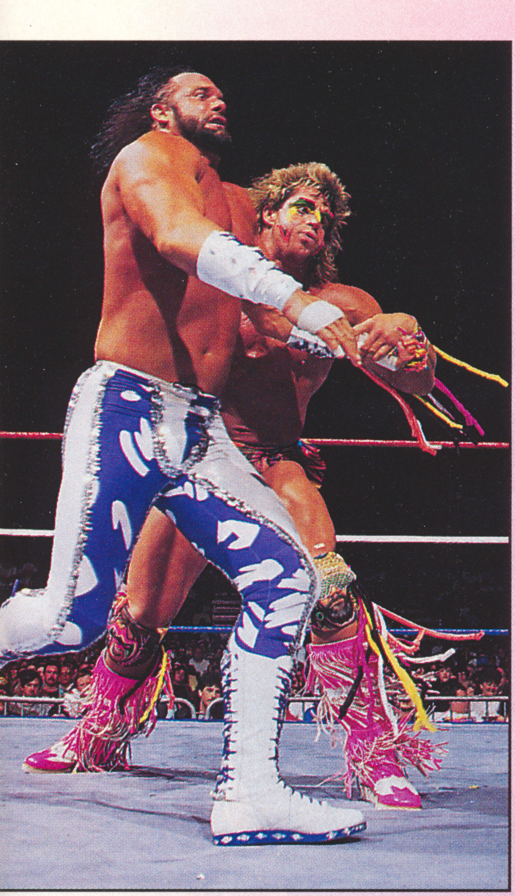
How long could the Warrior have reigned? Some say that he would still be the champion today had Randy Savage not disrupted the momentum. Savage's career was in a curious state at the time. He'd seemed to have lost touch with himself, demanding that others call him the "Macho King" and hanging around with a manager who was then known as "Sensational Queen Sherri." Savage did not even attempt to camouflage his jealousy of the Warrior and boasted that he was going to do "something horrendous" to put the champion "in his place." At the 1991 *Royal Rumble*, the loose cannon followed through with his threat.

The Warrior was coasting toward victory against Sgt. Slaughter. Suddenly, Sherri appeared on the ring apron, heckling the champ. Warrior lifted her over his head and looked around, contemplating the best spot to deposit the trespasser. Noticing Savage at ringside, Warrior came up with a solution, tossing the woman on top of the Macho King. However, in the confusion Slaughter seized the advantage, thrusting his adversary into the ropes with a knee to the spine. From the arena floor, Savage cracked his personal scepter over the champion's head—enabling Slaughter to win the belt by covering the unconscious Warrior for the pin.

The greatest prize in sports-entertainment had been stolen from him. Yet the Warrior didn't care about the belt. His goal was to pay back Savage. At *WrestleMania VII*, the two met, with the rules stipulating that the loser would retire. Savage never had a chance. Warrior not only won the battle but dehumanized Savage in the process, pinning him by coolly placing one foot on his chest—the way a seasoned veteran routs an awkward rookie.

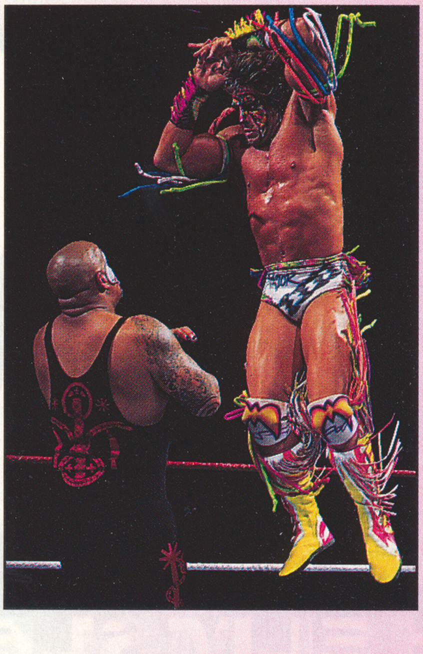
(*Editor's Note*: Savage would eventually be reinstated. At *SummerSlam '92*, he again locked up with the Warrior. The World Wrestling Federation Championship had changed hands several times since Slaughter won the belt, and now Savage was the titlist. But he lost via count-out. Because the title can only change

WORLD WRESTLIN



hands via pinfall or disqualification, he kept the belt.)

Sometime after *WrestleMania VII*, the Warrior had a series of experiences that changed him. First, the Undertaker surprised him during a World Wrestling Federation broadcast and stuffed him in a casket. Then, Papa Shango—a wrestler versed in the art of voodoo—cast a spell on the former champ. Finally, Jake "The Snake" Roberts claimed that he would teach the Warrior how to overcome fear. Instead, Roberts betrayed him.



Shortly before the 1992 *Survivor Series*, the Warrior simply vanished. Fans speculated that he had transported himself to the stars, where he was rekindling his energy. Someday, they said, he'd again plunge to Earth, burning up the rings where he'd scored his greatest triumphs.

Now that time has come. Savage and Hogan are gone from the World Wrestling Federation, but the Warrior doesn't really care. After all, he's pinned both cleanly in the center of the ring; neither can make the same claim about him. The Undertaker and Roberts, though, are still on the marquee, and that could mean a renewal of old conflicts.

Then there's the generation of athletes who never faced the Warrior: fierce competitors like Ahmed Johnson, Vader and Goldust. For these wrestlers, the Warrior is a mountain to climb—and a legend to subdue. And for the Warrior, these men are names—names like Hercules, Rick Rude and the Honky Tonk Man—to fill the pages as the phenom from Parts Unknown begins writing Chapter Two.

THE HUNTER AND THE HUNTED

HUNTER HEARST-HELMSLEY

BY LOU GIANFRIDDO

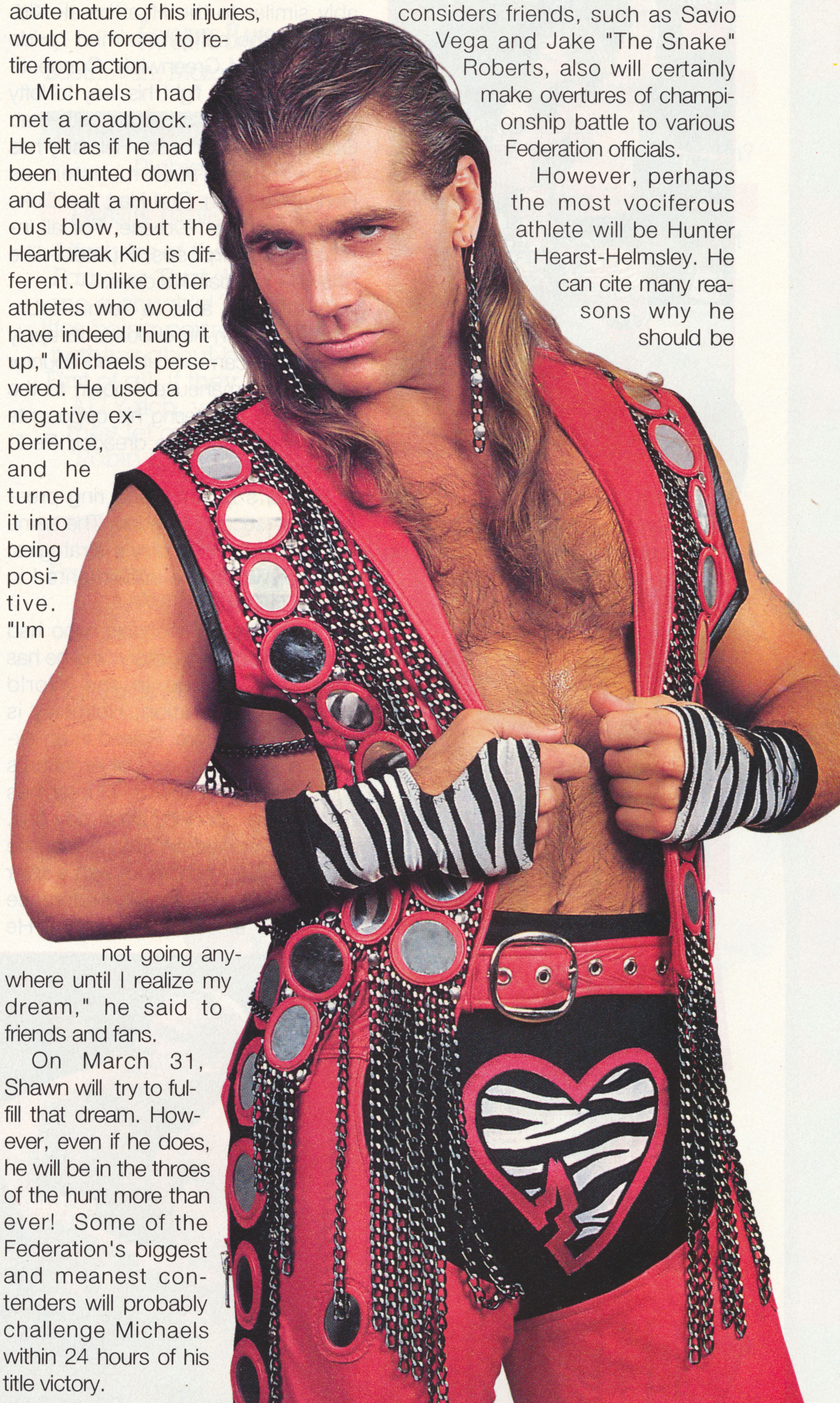
World Wrestling Federation superstar Shawn Michaels—by his own admission—has been a hunted man ever since he entered the Federation in 1988. Even before attempting to capture the Federation Title from Bret "Hit Man" Hart at *WrestleMania XII's* Iron Man Match this past March (this article was written before that encounter), Shawn found himself pressed into a solitude in which few others would be able to survive, lending truth to the cliché that it is, after all, lonely at the top.

The road to the Federation Championship, as many Federation fans know, wasn't as smooth as it had been for some of his predecessors. On many occasions, Michaels had to give up strength, size and weight to his opponents. In the past, he has tangled with and successfully defeated opponents such as Isaac Yankem D.D.S.—a man who tips the scales at more than 320 pounds—and other similarly overpowering men.

On the surface, it always seemed as if Shawn never had a snowball's chance in Hades to beat such superstars. As a matter of fact, on some occasions he didn't. One of his most memorable defeats occurred outside the ring in Syracuse, New York. It was in this upstate New York city, which is renowned for the Genesee River and the high-profile athletic teams that are supplied by Syracuse University, that Shawn Michaels was confronted with a challenge that would change his life forever.

It was in Syracuse that Shawn was mauled and severely beaten at the hands of thugs outside a nightclub. His attackers showed the superstar no remorse or respect. Like cowards, the gang attacked Shawn from the blind side and literally beat him to within an inch of his illustrious life.

The reality of the attack sent shock waves throughout the World Wrestling Federation's information system. It was reported on the television network and on America OnLine, as well as in *World Wrestling Federation Magazine*. Everyone, including Michaels' personal doctors, seemed to agree on one fact: Shawn Michaels, due to the severity and acute nature of his injuries, would be forced to retire from action.



Michaels had met a roadblock. He felt as if he had been hunted down and dealt a murderous blow, but the Heartbreak Kid is different. Unlike other athletes who would have indeed "hung it up," Michaels persevered. He used a negative experience, and he turned it into being positive. "I'm not going anywhere until I realize my dream," he said to friends and fans.

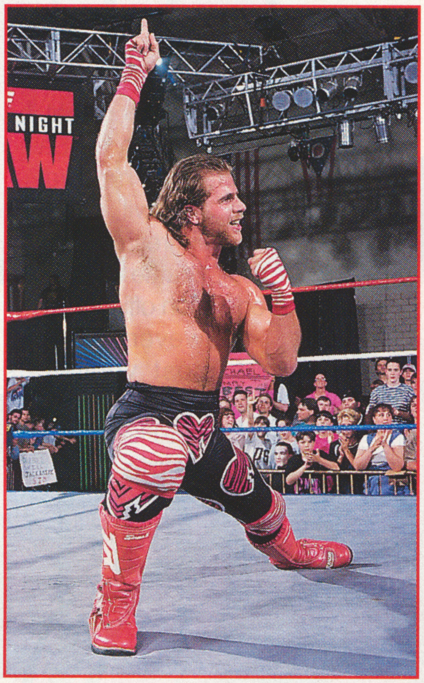
On March 31, Shawn will try to fulfill that dream. However, even if he does, he will be in the throes of the hunt more than ever! Some of the Federation's biggest and meanest contenders will probably challenge Michaels within 24 hours of his title victory.

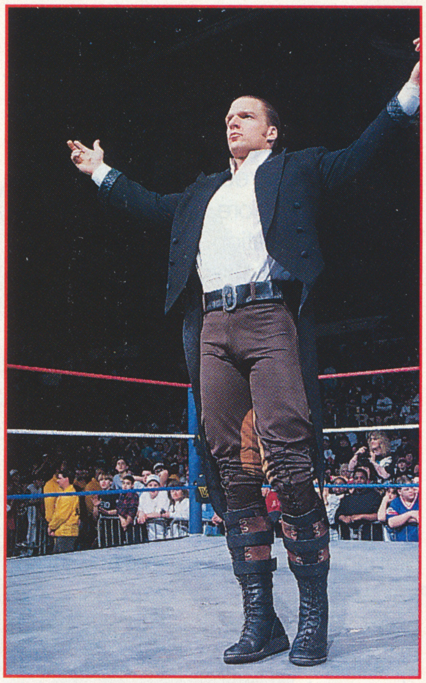
Some of the names bandied about include the massive, aggressive Vader, Stone Cold Steve Austin and the bizarre Goldust. Even men that he considers friends, such as Savio Vega and Jake "The Snake" Roberts, also will certainly make overtures of championship battle to various Federation officials.

However, perhaps the most vociferous athlete will be Hunter Hearst-Helmsley. He can cite many reasons why he should be

AND THE HEARTBREAK KID

THE HUNTER AND THE HUNTED





granted a title shot against Shawn before anyone else. His reasons, although dripping with pomposity, no doubt may ring of prudence to those who hold higher positions within the Federation's hierarchy.

In many ways, Hunter is remarkably similar to the Heartbreak Kid. Hunter—the self-proclaimed "pride and class" of Greenwich, Connecticut, has had to fight his way to lofty status. No one can argue with that. Over the last year or so, Helmsley has had wars with such monsters as Henry Godwinn, Bret Hart and Duke "The Dumpster" Droese. For all intents and purposes, Hunter—like Shawn—has paid his dues.

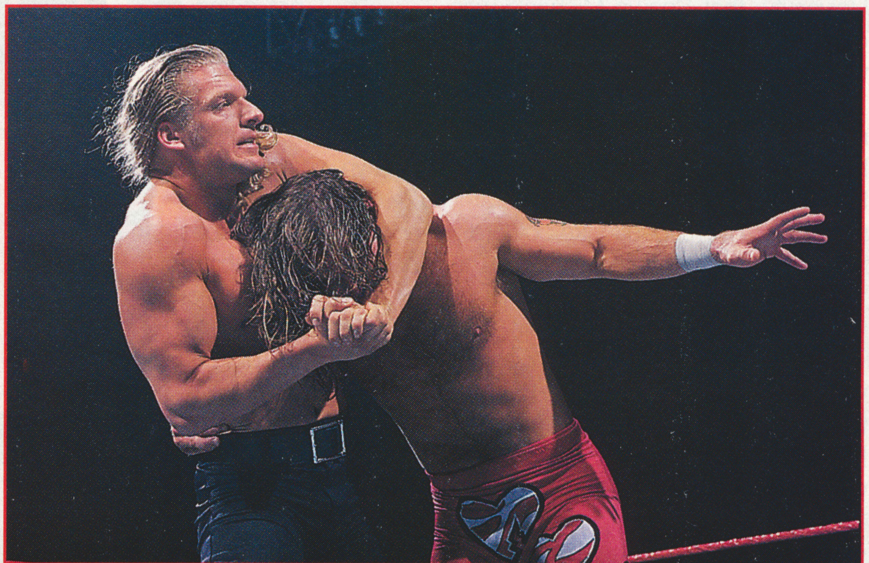
Hunter is also a remarkable wrestler. When he chooses to apply himself, he can execute and counter almost any maneuver known to the ring before splattering his opponents into oblivion with the dreaded Pedigree inverted piledriver.

Hunter's balance and ring presence are second to none. The same holds true for Helmsley's strategies, most of which are implemented in callous fashion.

Unlike Shawn Michaels, who had to fight and claw for everything he has thus far attained in the World Wrestling Federation, Helmsley is spoiled to the core. Raised in an exclusive section in one of America's most wealthiest towns, Hunter has relished the good life since day one. He never walked on Easy Street; he owned it. He wasn't born with a silver spoon in his mouth; his preference was jewel-encrusted platinum. He never wrestled an opponent in his career; he dominated them.

While Hunter may well be Shawn's antithesis, he is undoubtedly a real threat and danger to him. Whether or not Hunter will be able to unseat Shawn from his "premier superstar" status with the same expediency, of course, remains to be seen.

As for Shawn—well, his summation of the possible forthcoming battle was recorded at a television taping prior to *WrestleMania XII* (now available on the Coliseum Home Video label). "So Hunter Hearst-Helmsley wants to hunt down the Heartbreak Kid? Maybe the Hunter will become the hunted."



PERSONALITY PROFILE

If I Could Have Done It Differently:

I would never have given that dollar to the Salvation Army.

Favorite Athlete:

Myself

Favorite Sport (besides wrestling):

Women and polo. Better yet, women playing polo.

Person You Would Most Like To Meet:

There is no one who is more interesting than myself. I can't even imagine what a thrill it is for people when they meet me.

Best Advice Ever Received:

That's between me and my stockbroker.

Favorite Actor:

Any Federation fan that has ever booed me. I know that they do it because they really want to be me—but can't.

Favorite Actress:

Women never act when they're with me.

Favorite Movie:

Anything with James Bond. After all, they did model that character after Hunter Hearst-Helmsley.

Secret Talent:

Again—women never act when they're with me.

Favorite Band:

Beethoven, Mozart and Bach

Favorite Cartoon Character:

Richie Rich

Favorite Television Show:

Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous. That show gives me a chuckle! Those low-lifes being portrayed know nothing about being rich! First of all, if they were REALLY rich, why would they let a peasant like "Robin U. Leach" enter their homes?

Hobbies:

Fast cars, fine dining and faster women.

Favorite Food:

Caviar and Champagne

Biggest Thrill In Life:

Waking up every day—being me.

Favorite Video Game:

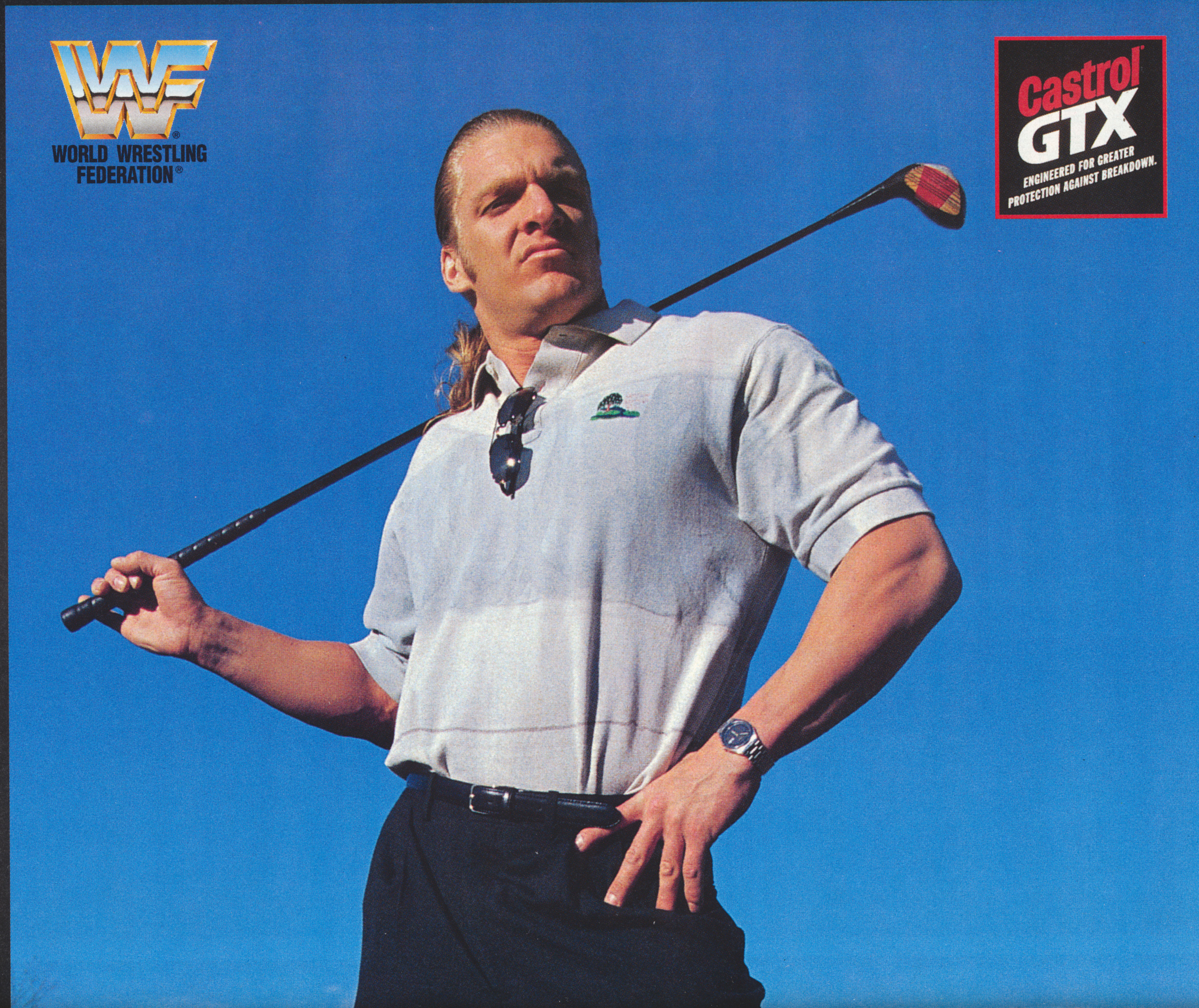
Who has time for all these games with all these women?

Favorite Fast Food:

Does it look like I put fast food in this body? Next question.

Height: 6'4"
Weight: 246 lbs.
Hometown:
Greenwich,
Connecticut

HUNTER HEARST-HELMSLEY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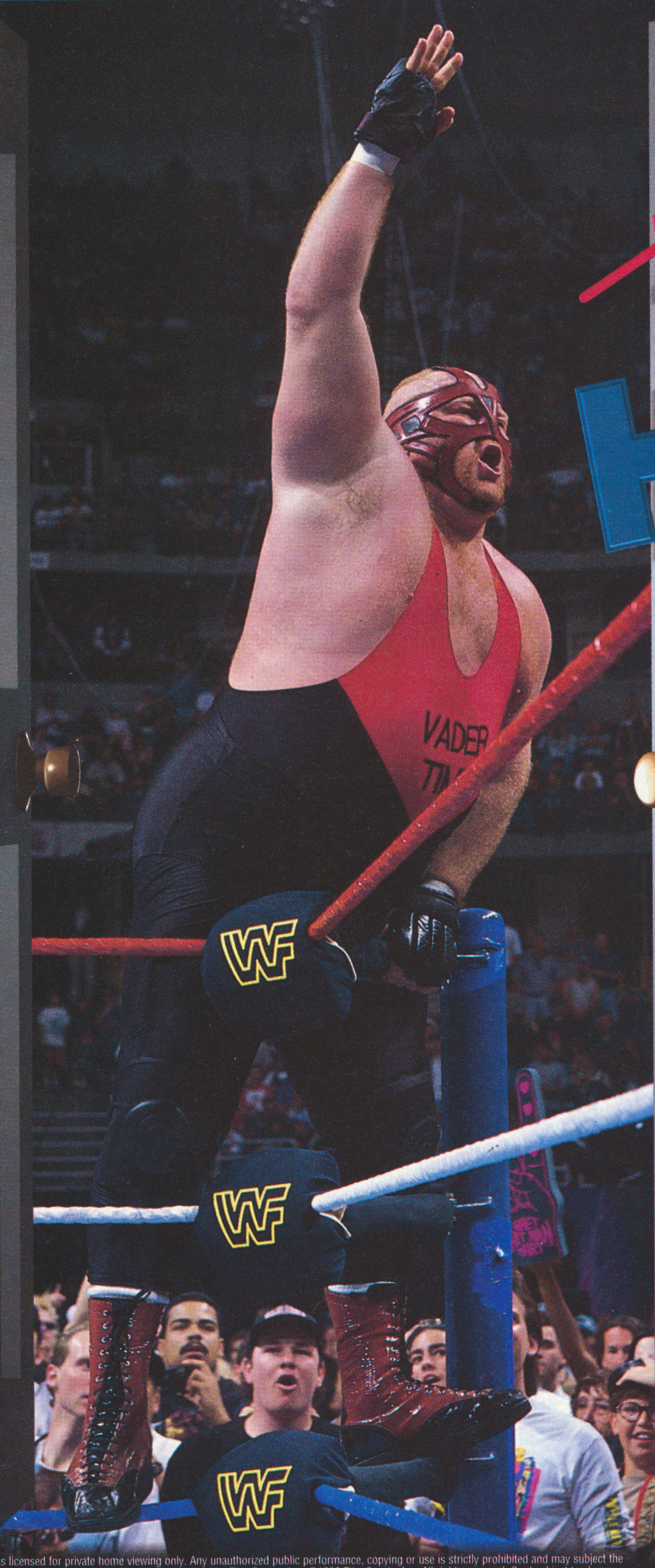

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MAY 1996

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5 MR. FUJI'S BIRTHDAY	6	7 OWEN HART'S BIRTHDAY	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 IN YOUR HOUSE	29	30 JAKE "THE SNAKE" ROBERTS' BIRTHDAY	31	

JUNE 1996

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4 GORILLA MONSOON'S BIRTHDAY	5	6 AHMED JOHNSON'S BIRTHDAY	7	8 TATANKA'S BIRTHDAY
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 ULTIMATE WARRIOR'S BIRTHDAY	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 KING OF THE RING 30	24	25	26	27	28	29

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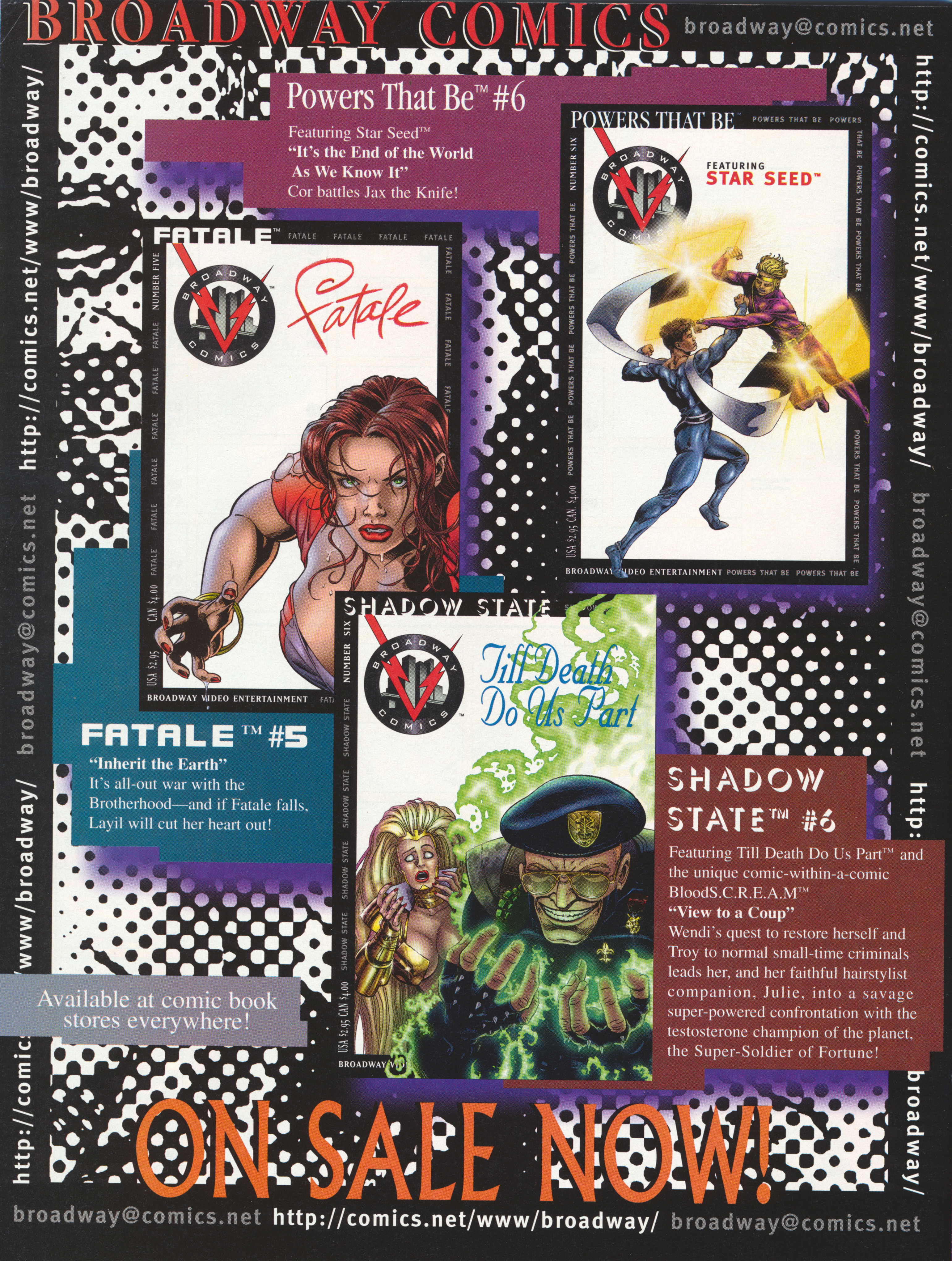
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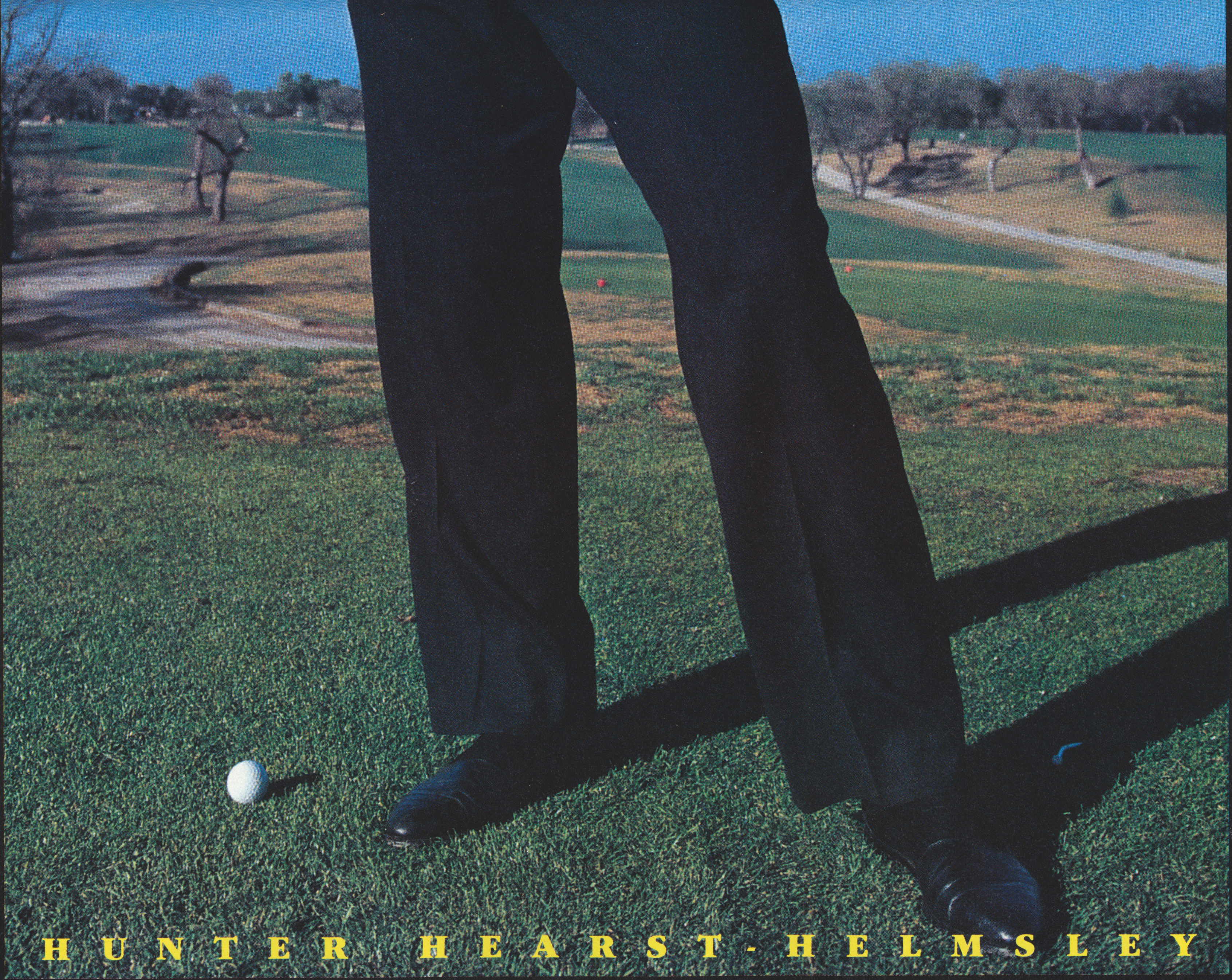

HUNTER HEARST-HELMSLEY

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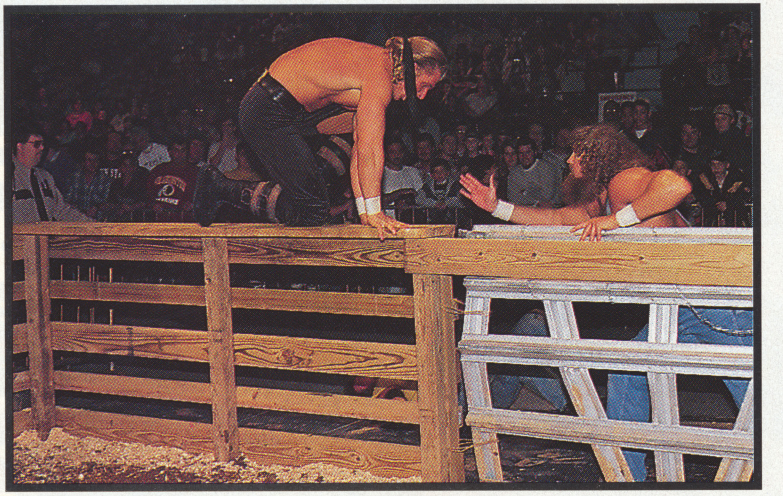
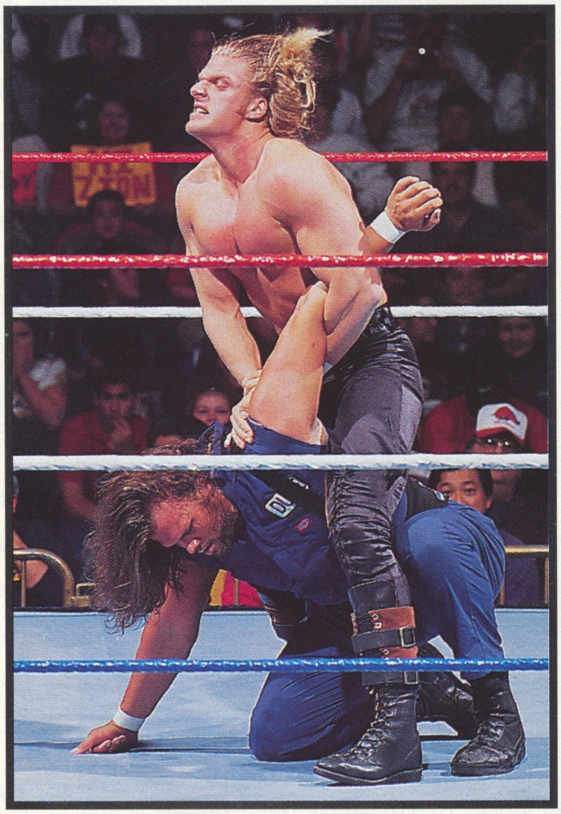
CAREER HIGHLIGHTS



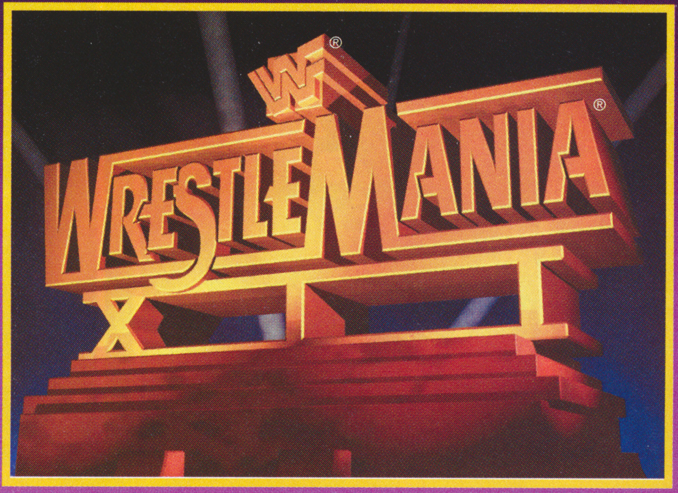
December's In Your House saw the first-ever Arkansas Hog Pen Match, in which Hunter Hearst-Helmsley successfully ended a longtime bitter feud with archrival Henry Godwinn when he dumped the "Pride of Bitters" headfirst into a pen of pig-stained soil. Unfortunately for the snob from Greenwich, Connecticut, his victory celebration was short-lived as Godwinn quickly made sure that Helmsley too took the muddy and nasty plunge.



During the Free-For-All that preceded the 1996 Royal Rumble, Hunter Hearst-Helmsley almost proved to the world that crime does pay when he took out Duke "The Dumpster" Droese courtesy of a foreign object. However, shortly after the referee's three-count, interim Federation President Gorilla Monsoon came to ringside and reversed the decision, having seen Hunter's underhandedness from a monitor in his office. That diabolical maneuver caused Hunter to enter the Royal Rumble at No. 1 rather than 30.

Being one who doesn't forgive and forget that easily, Hunter made the "Dumpster" pay back some dividends at February's In Your House. While the referee's back was turned, Helmsley presented Droese with a loss AND a galvanized steel headache when he took out the Trash Man with his own can and then pinned him for the 1-2-3.

PS: Call Hunter Hearst-Helmsley whatever you like, but he's got some of the finest-looking women—now matter HOW he gets them!!



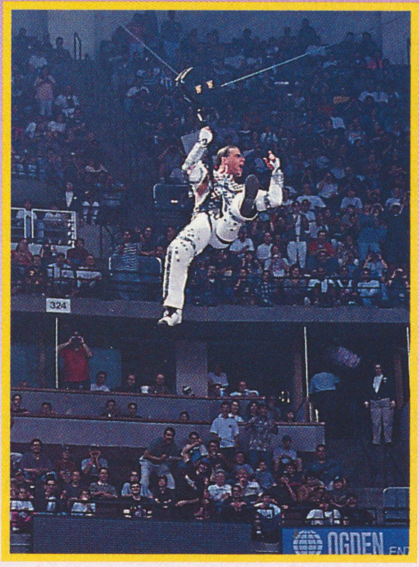
RESULTS

BY KEITH ELLIOT GREENBERG

IRON MAN MATCH

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION

Bret "Hit Man" Hart vs. Shawn Michaels

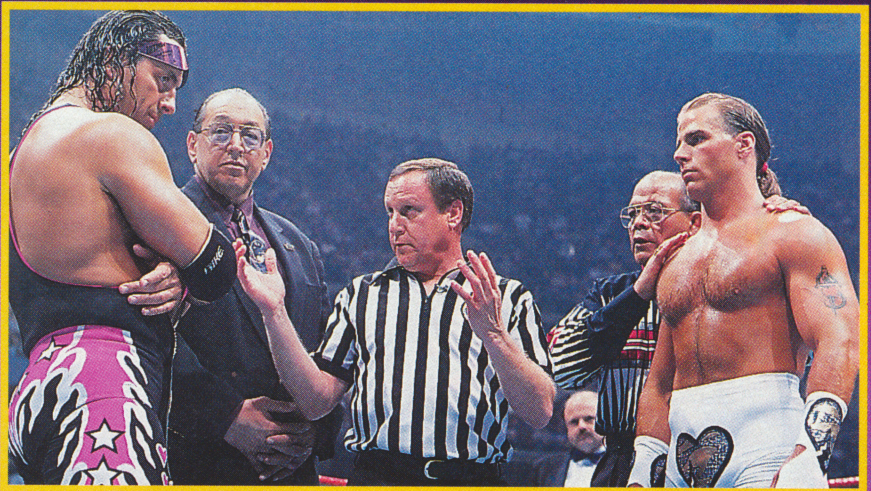


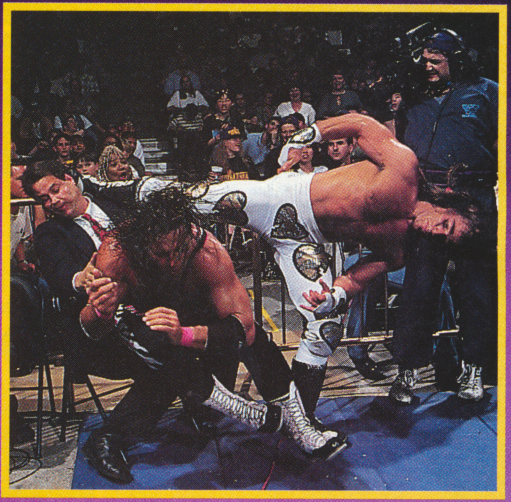
In what may have been the greatest confrontation in Federation history, Bret "Hit Man" Hart put up his title against Shawn Michaels. According to the special rules of this Iron Man Match, the winner would be the individual to score the most decisions within a 60-minute time limit.

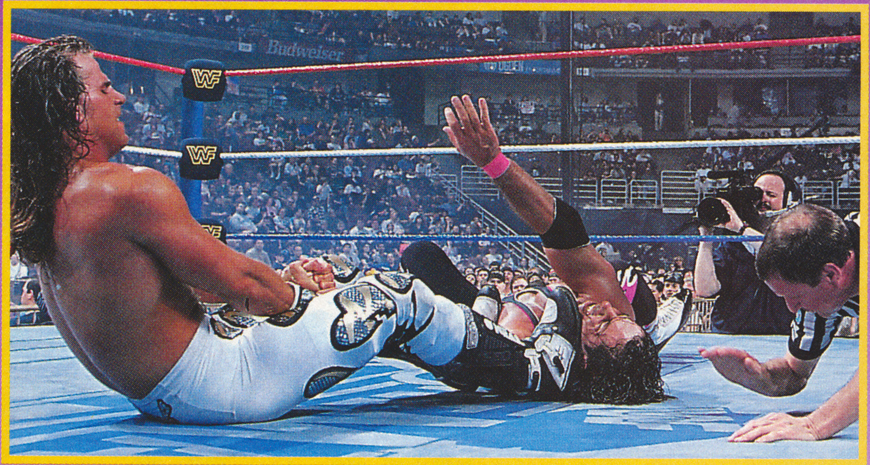
Michaels' mentor, Mexican wrestling star Super Sock Jose Lothario was first to enter the ring. As fans looked around for Michaels, Lothario climbed the ropes and pointed up to the ceiling area—where a spotlight shined on the dancing challenger high above the crowd. With a harness strapped around his waist, Shawn then swung down a cable into the audience and began his march toward the ring for the most important battle of his life.

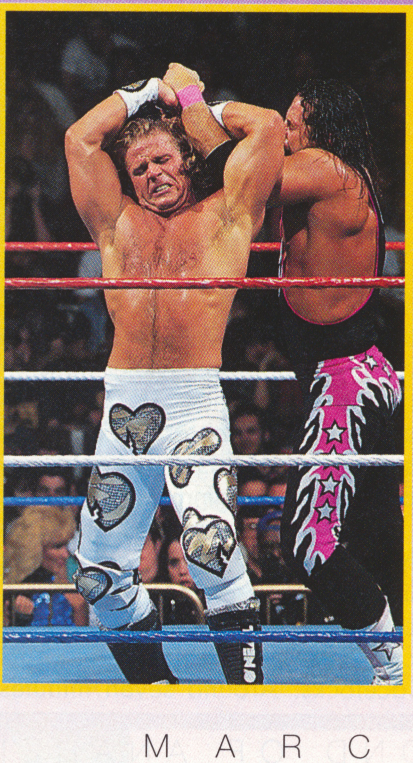
Hart chose a less ostentatious entrance, simply walking down the aisle like the proud soldier he is. In a poignant moment, he kissed his championship belt and handed his sunglasses to his 6-year-old son Blade before beginning the fight.

The two were cautious at first, relying on fundamental maneuvers like go-behind takedowns, escapes, reversals, wristlocks, headlocks, arm bars, back heel trips and front facelocks. Around seven minutes





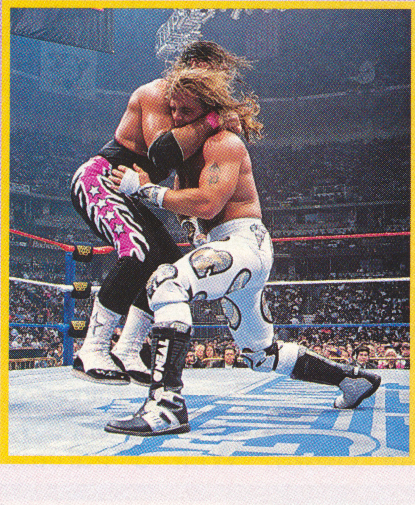


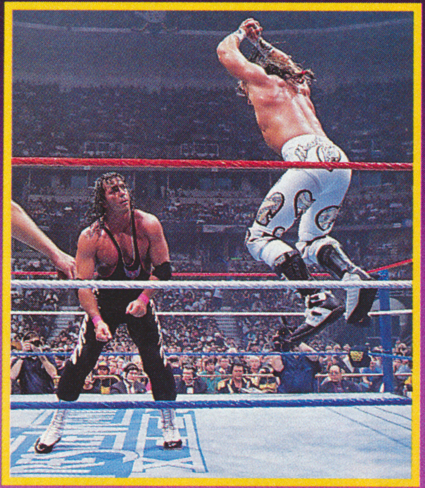


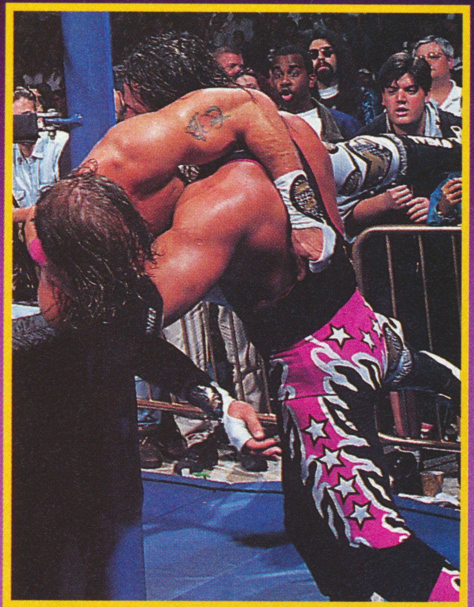
into the match, they opened up a bit, running the ropes. Shawn came out on top after the brief flurry, taking Bret to the canvas with a series of armdrags. About three minutes later, they left the mat and charged at each other again. This time, Michaels also bested his rival, snatching Hart in a headscissors and rolling to the canvas, while flipping Bret to ringside.

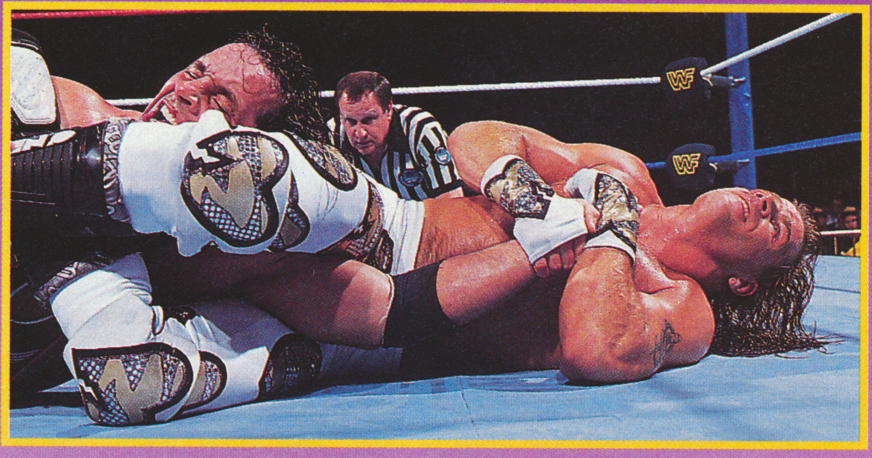
Bret decided to take a more aggressive approach, ramming his head into the Heartbreak Kid's lower abdomen and dropping a leg across Shawn's collarbone. Fifteen minutes into the match, the champion clotheslined the challenger out of the ring and delivered a forearm smash on the arena floor. There, the Heartbreak Kid shoved Bret straight onto the timekeeper's lap, and then he went after the champion with a side kick. Then the Hit Man slid out of the chair, and the hapless official was knocked senseless.

Ignoring the mistake, Shawn targeted Bret's left shoulder in the ring. First, the Heartbreak Kid caught Bret in a wristlock and planted a foot on each side of the arm, stretching the champ in a submission attempt. Frustrated that Hart wouldn't give up, Shawn ran the shoulder into the ringpost, executed









a shoulderbreaker and came down squarely on the sore region with a double axhandle from the ropes. Grabbing Hit Man in a hammerlock, the challenger raced across the ring, driving the shoulder into the turnbuckles.

Bret's offensive strategy had, thus far, been ineffective, so he switched to defense. He waited until Shawn had him backed into the ropes, then lifted up the challenger over the shoulder, dropping his neck onto the middle strand. Bret next catapulted his opponent over the turnbuckles, and Michaels' chin crashed into the ringpost.

At the half-hour point, Bret delivered a bulldog headlock and began climbing to the top rope. Shawn got off the canvas and tried reaching up and tossing Hart. But the Hit Man rained fists on Michaels' head and chest, spun him around and shot off the top turnbuckle with a knee wedged into the back of the challenger's head. Michaels smacked into the referee on the way to the mat. Observers would later marvel that not only did the official recuperate quickly but his skills remained sharp until the very end of the contest.

Shawn appeared to be out; however, he wasn't. Rather, he was waiting for Bret to slip up. The Hit Man fell into the trap as he whipped the contender into the ropes. Believing that Michaels could not mount a comeback, Hart was stunned when his opponent bounced back toward the center of the ring and suddenly met him with a powerslam.

SHAWN
"ALL THAT TALK ABOUT BEING THE BEST THERE IS, THE BEST THERE WAS AND THE BEST THERE EVER WILL BE—TONIGHT, BRET HART MADE A BELIEVER OUT OF ME."

As Michaels' momentum grew, Bret rolled out of the ring. Shawn would not be deterred. The Heartbreak Kid scampered up to the top rope and splashed the Hit Man on the arena floor.

Michaels could have probably have gained the first fall at this stage via count-out. But there was something inside the Heartbreak Kid that told him it was better to beat a man inside the ring. Shawn forced Bret back between the ropes, then climbed the buckles and launched himself at the Hit Man. Hart managed to pull his opponent out of the air and roll onto him for a two-count.

Disappointed, Michaels tried a perfect-plex, then a sleeper. Bret wouldn't sink. Shawn backed himself against the buckles, grabbed the ropes on each side of him, boosted himself up and delivered a mule kick to Hart's face.

Bret was hurting, but Michaels was a little too impatient. Instead of measuring his opponent, Shawn charged Bret in the corner. Hit Man had been in this position many times before, and he knew exactly what to do. He bent over and flipped the Heartbreak Kid over the

buckles right onto the arena floor.

Shawn landed on his back—a detail not lost on the champion. Hoping to further inflame the injured area, he headbutted Michaels' spine, slung him back-first into the turnbuckles, scaled the ropes and elbow-smashed Shawn's vertebrae. Hit Man followed these maneuvers with a superplex and a camel clutch. Then he tossed Shawn over the ropes.

> **BRET**
> **"THERE'S NOT TOO MUCH TO SAY EXCEPT TONIGHT WAS SHAWN'S NIGHT."**

On the way down, Michaels wiped out his trainer, Jose Lothario.

Lothario stumbled to his feet—just as Bret was whipping Shawn into the ring steps. Once again, Jose was in the wrong place at the wrong time. He collided with Michaels and fell to the floor.

The match returned to the ring, where Bret delivered a belly-to-belly suplex, then back to the arena floor, where Hart dived onto his opponent through the ropes. Shawn struggled onto the apron. Hit Man met his foe at the ropes and tried suplexing him into the ring. But Michaels managed to land on his feet and get behind Bret. Hart quickly switched places with his opponent and pulled out a German suplex. Shawn seemed finished, but he somehow raised his shoulder at the count of two.

Bret was too close to victory to give up. He delivered another suplex—this time with both men actually standing on the top turnbuckle. He tried a Sharpshooter but got a kick to the face for his trouble. He caught Shawn in a half Boston crab. Michaels fought, crawled over to the ropes and grabbed them, forcing the champion to release the hold.

This was getting aggravating. With less than five minutes left, Hart needed to end this thing. However, Shawn was just picking up his second wind. Bret dived at the challenger from the second rope and got smacked in the face with a vicious boot. Shawn rose, surprised Hit Man with a dropkick, reversed an Irish whip and then hit Bret with a flying elbow.

With two and a half minutes left, Michaels executed a suplex, followed by a flying elbow, a gutwrench suplex and a moonsault. Then came a Mexican maneuver in which Michaels leapt from the second ring rope, wrapped his legs around the Hit Man's shoulders and flipped to the canvas, sitting on top of the champion.

There was one minute left in the match. Neither man had scored a pinfall. Both were exhausted—but they had to give it their all. Shawn tried a dropkick from the top rope. Bret caught Shawn's legs and turned him around in a Sharpshooter. The referee asked Michaels if he was willing to submit. Michaels refused. There were 10 seconds left. Hart applied more pressure, but the

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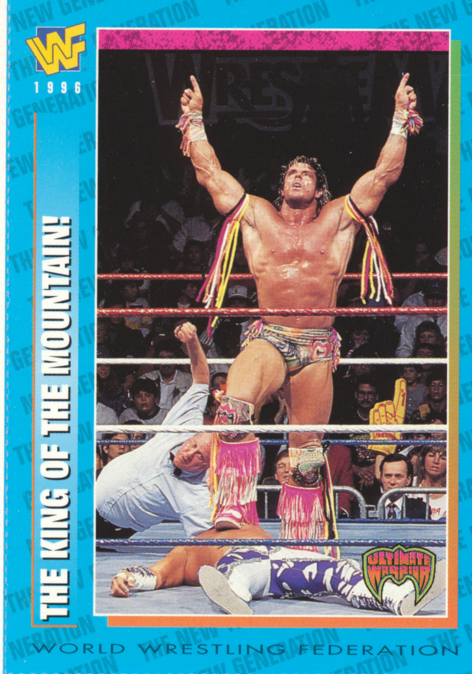
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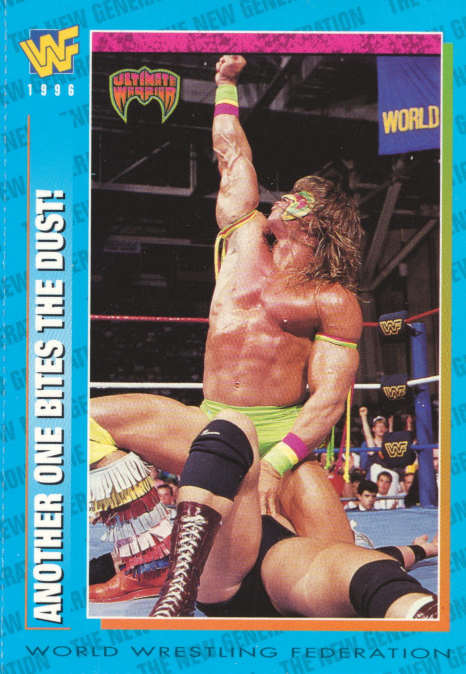
THE KING OF THE MOUNTAIN!
ULTIMATE WARRIOR
WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION
THE NEW GENERATION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ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST!
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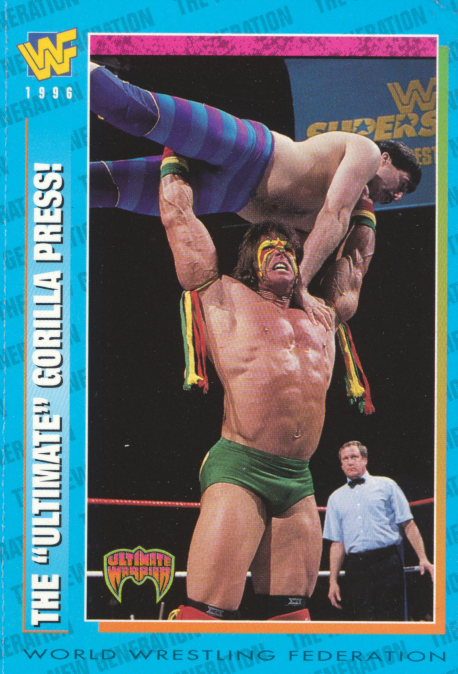
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1996
THE "ULTIMATE" GORILLA PRESS!
ULTIMATE WARRIOR
WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION
THE NEW GENERATION

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A RUDE AWAKENING!
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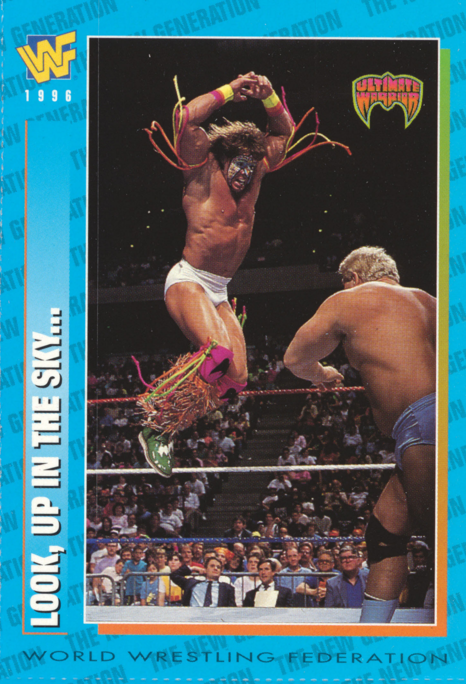
THE NEW GENERATION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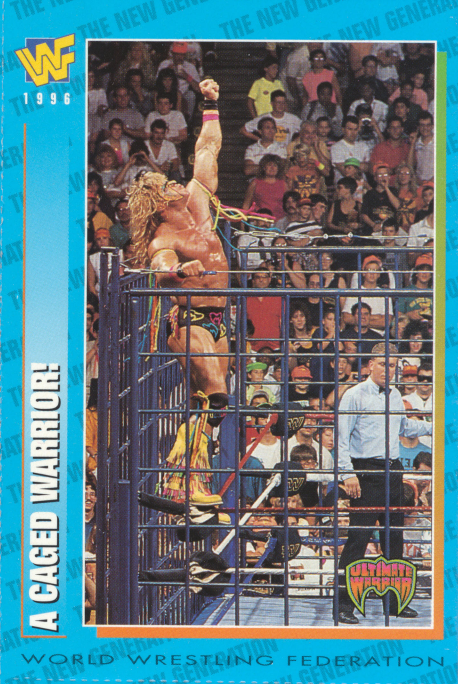
LOOK, UP IN THE SKY...
WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION
THE NEW GENERATION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A CAGED WARRIOR!
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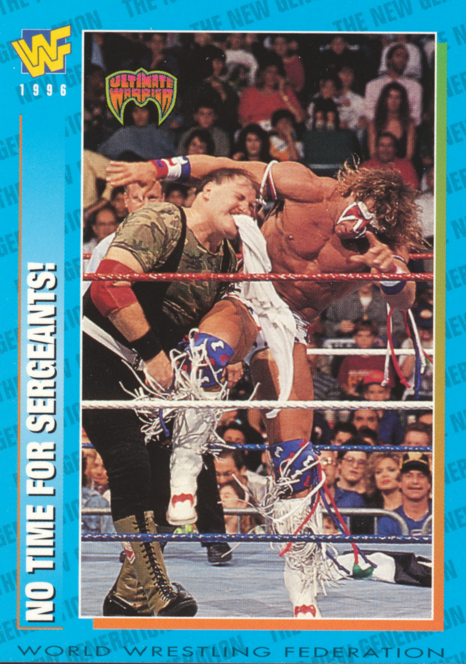
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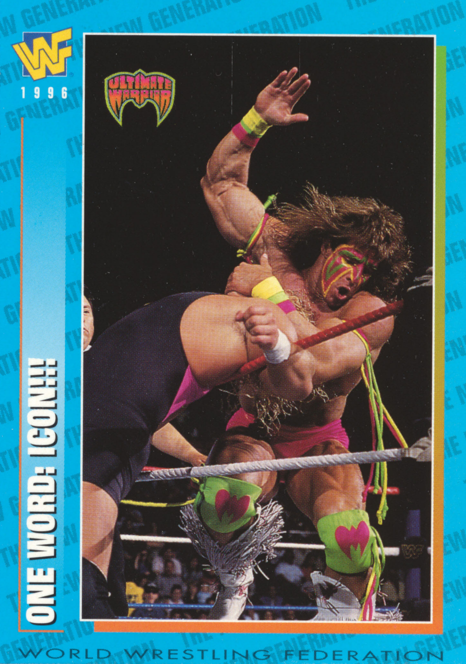
NO TIME FOR SERGEANTS!
WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION
THE NEW GENERATION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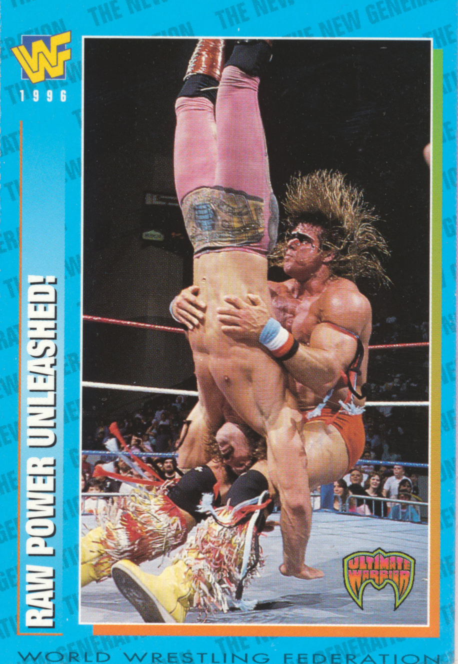
ONE WORD: ICON!!!
WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION
THE NEW GENERATION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RAW POWER UNLEASHED!
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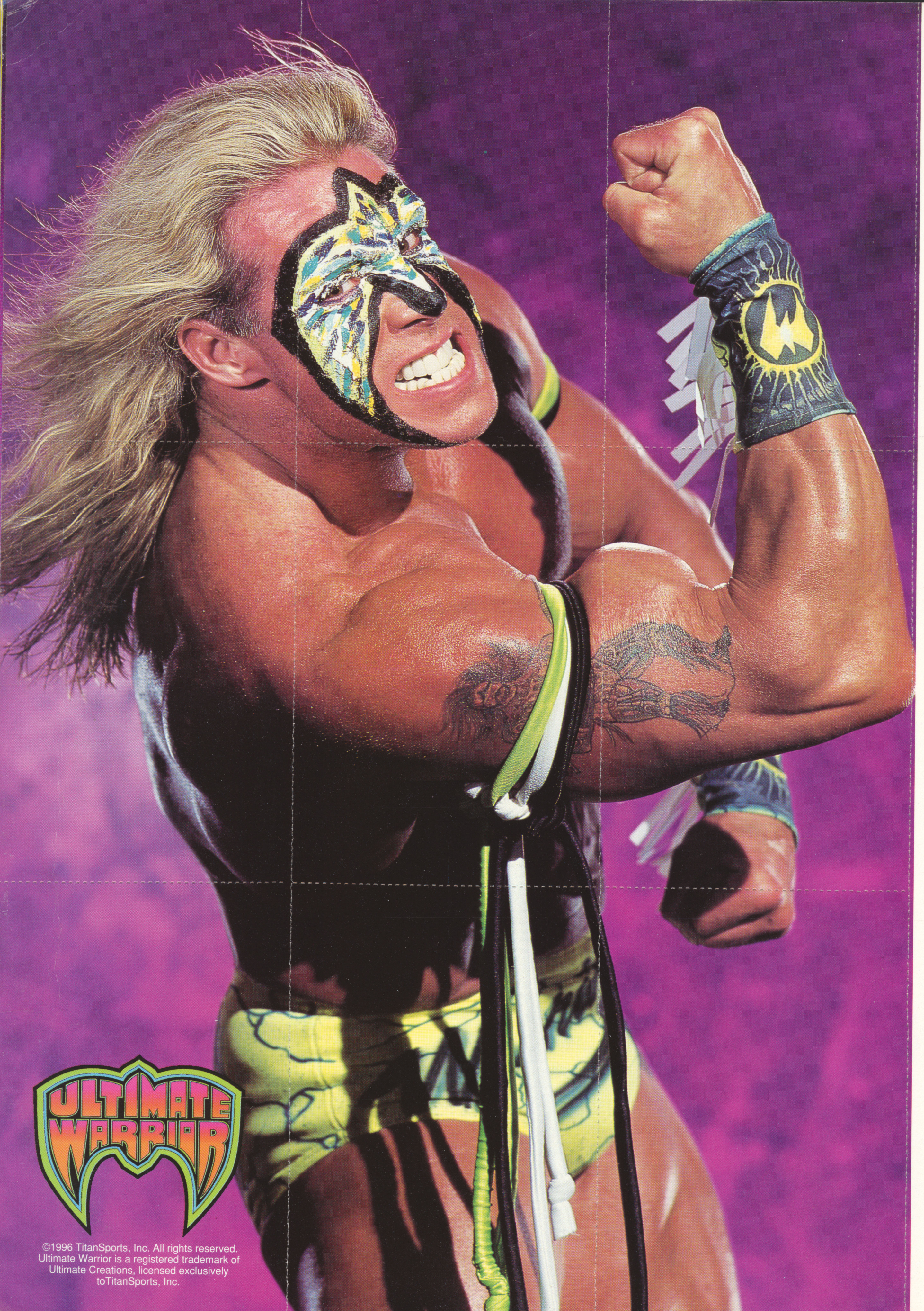
THE NEW GENERATION


ULTIMATE
WARRIOR

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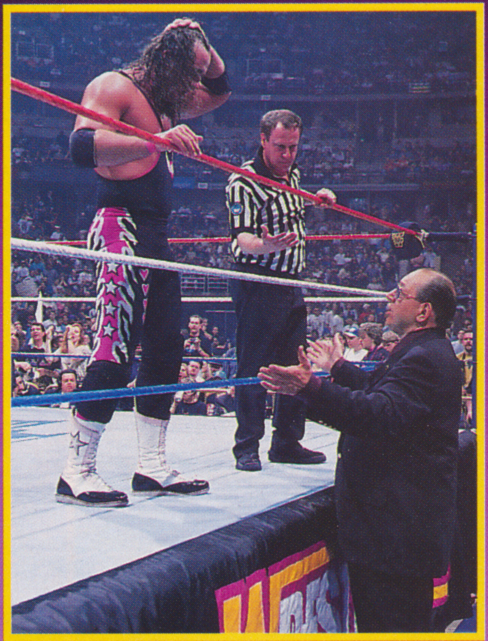

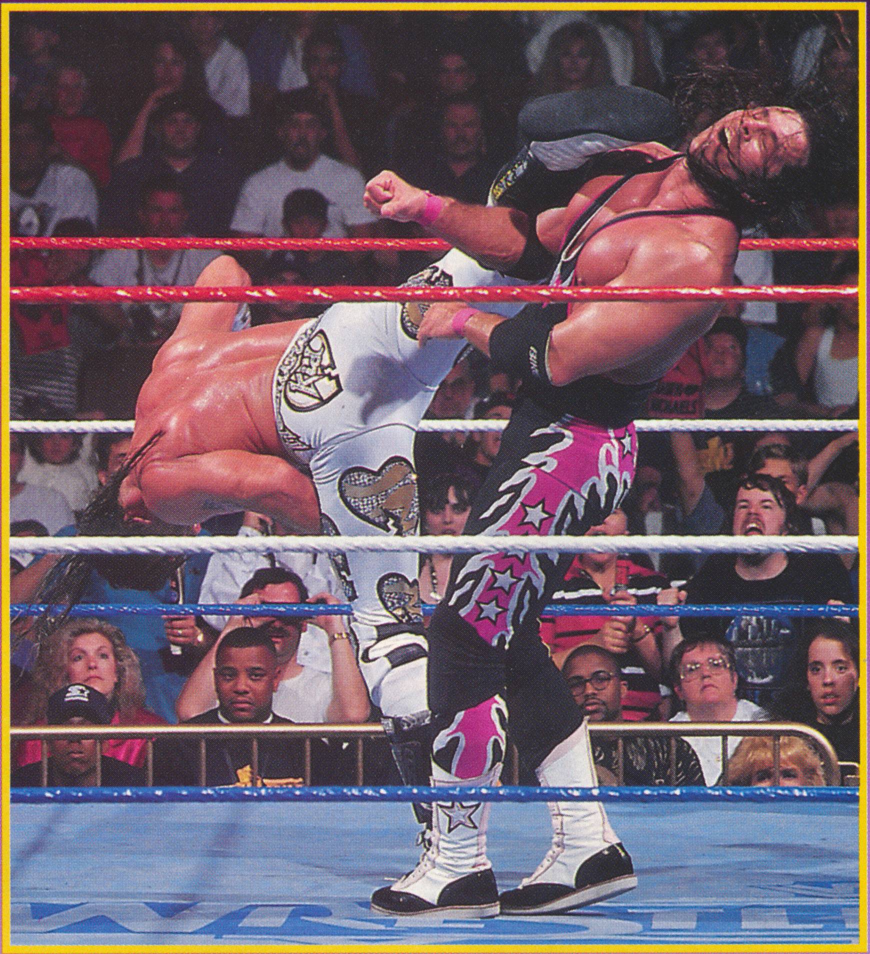

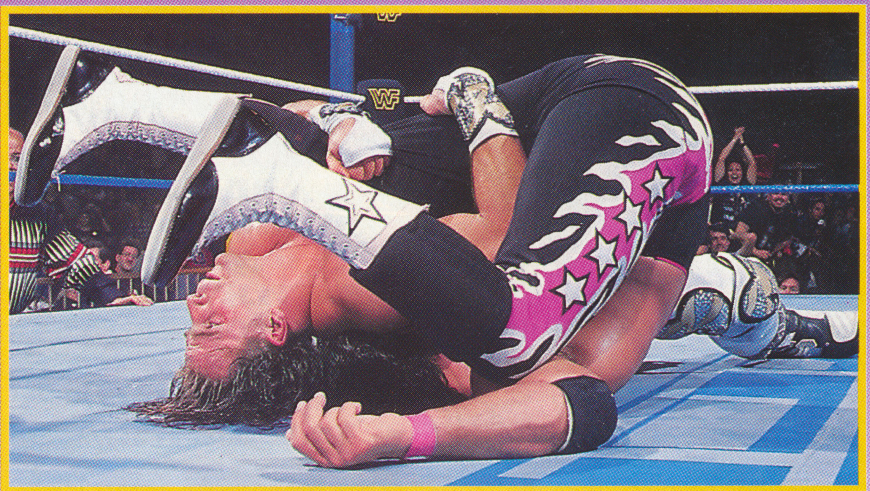

fans were counting down now, and Shawn gritted his teeth and shook his head. At the one-hour mark, the bell rang. The Hit Man was forced to release the hold—and Michaels hadn't quit.

A panting Bret picked up his belt, kissed it and proceeded toward the dressing room as Gorilla Monsoon entered the ring. Just as the Hit Man was about to pass through the curtain, Monsoon made a stunning decision: Sudden death rules would be added to the match. There had to be a winner!

Looking perturbed, Hit Man returned to the ring. Michaels was still on the canvas, desperately trying to get to his feet. "Ring the bell," Hart said, driving fists and knees into the contender's lower back and delivering a backbreaker. The champion slung Michaels into the buckles, then charged behind him. Incredibly, Shawn grasped onto the ropes and vaulted over Bret as he surged forward. Hart looked around—confused—and walked straight into Michaels' superkick. The Hit Man was stunned, but he was still on his feet. He wobbled toward Michaels again, and this time he got kicked straight in the face—the most direct hit of the night.

Bret dropped like a tree struck by lightning. And the Heartbreak Kid fell right on top of him, hooking the leg and holding it, as the referee counted, "One, two, three."

The fans went wild. Shawn was nearly driven to tears as he stood in center ring, realizing that his childhood dream had come true. Then, in one of the classiest moves ever seen in the World Wrestling Federation, he left the ring and shook hands with—first—Bret Hart's son Dallas, then the ex-titlist's father, Stu, proving that the Heartbreak Kid was indeed made of championship material.

One night before, at the Slammy Awards, Michaels had been called the leader of the New Generation. Now, he had the belt to fully live up to that label.

The Undertaker vs. Diesel

These two had been brawling for months. In the most memorable incident, the month before at *In Your House*, the Undertaker had emerged from a hole through the ring during Diesel's cage match with Bret Hart—pulling Big Daddy Cool down into the void. Shortly afterward, Diesel destroyed the Undertaker's coffin. However, several weeks later, Big Daddy Cool looked into another casket and saw his own likeness—an illustration of the "mind games" for which the Undertaker has become infamous.

At *WrestleMania XII*, the games were supposed to finally come to a definite end.

This was a back and forth contest. Diesel took the early lead, jarring the Undertaker with a running clothesline against the turnbuckles. But when Big Daddy Cool tried the same tactic in the opposite cornerof the ring, he got nailed in the face with a boot and clotheslined. Undertaker tried an elbowdrop—and missed. Diesel clotheslined his foe over the top rope, but Undertaker landed on his feet.

DIESEL
"THE DEAD MAN MAY HAVE WON THE BATTLE, BUT BIG DADDY COOL DOESN'T 'REST IN PEACE' FOR ANYBODY! *I'LL BE BACK!*"

Back between the ropes, Undertaker tried a tombstone piledriver, but Diesel slipped out of the hold. Undertaker followed up with a cross-bodypress, gripped Diesel in a wristlock, walked across the top rope and lowered an elbow onto Big Daddy Cool's vulnerable limb.

Again at ringside, Undertaker tried taking off his opponent's head, swinging a chair at Diesel's

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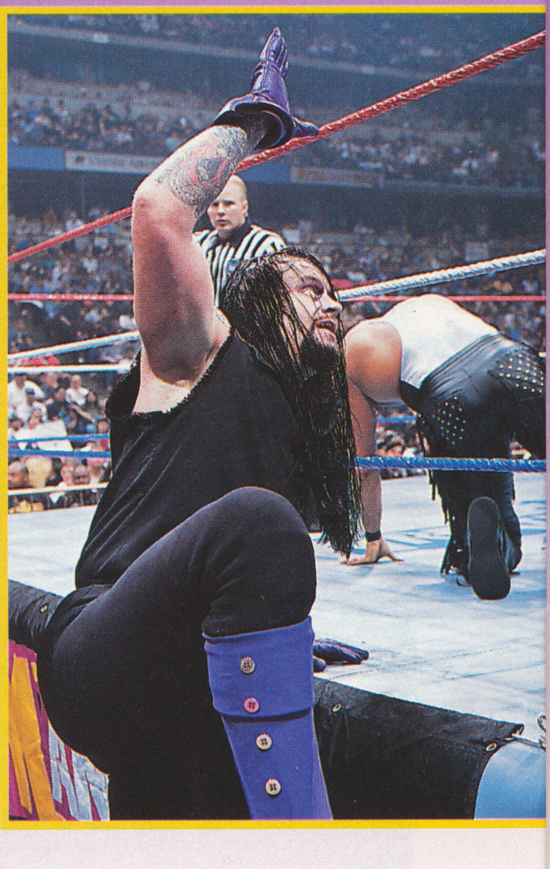
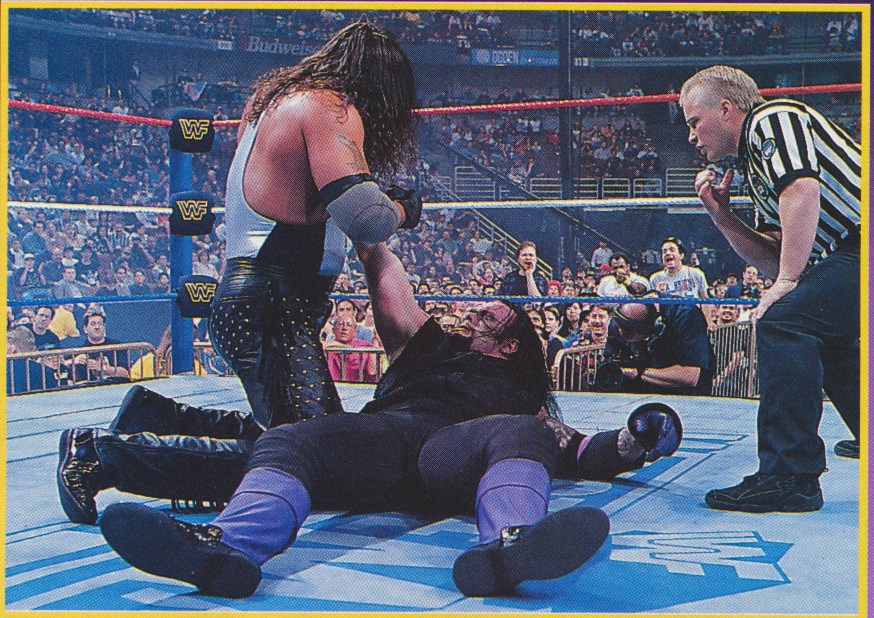




UNDERTAKER
"I TOLD YOU THAT *IN YOUR HOUSE* WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF THE END. DIESEL DUG HIS OWN GRAVE, AND TODAY I CAME HERE TO FILL IT."

skull. Big Daddy Cool ducked, and the weapon ended up being dented against the ringpost. Diesel now flung his rival into the guardrail, lifted him up and smashed his spine into the post twice. Hoping to end the match in the center of the ring, Diesel draped his foe over a shoulder and dropped him—chin-first—across the top turnbuckle.

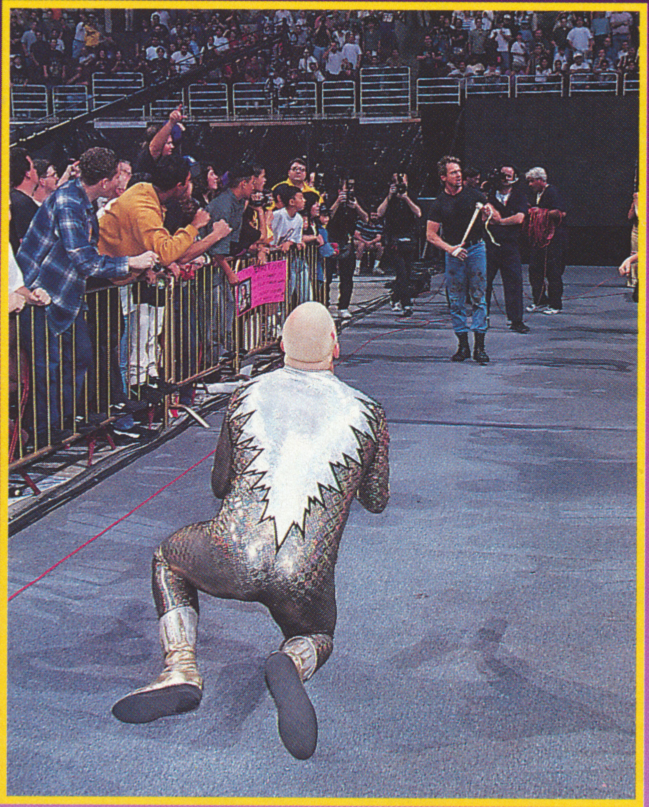
But Undertaker fired back with elbows and knees. Both men backed up and came at each other with raised boots, each one hitting the other simultaneously.

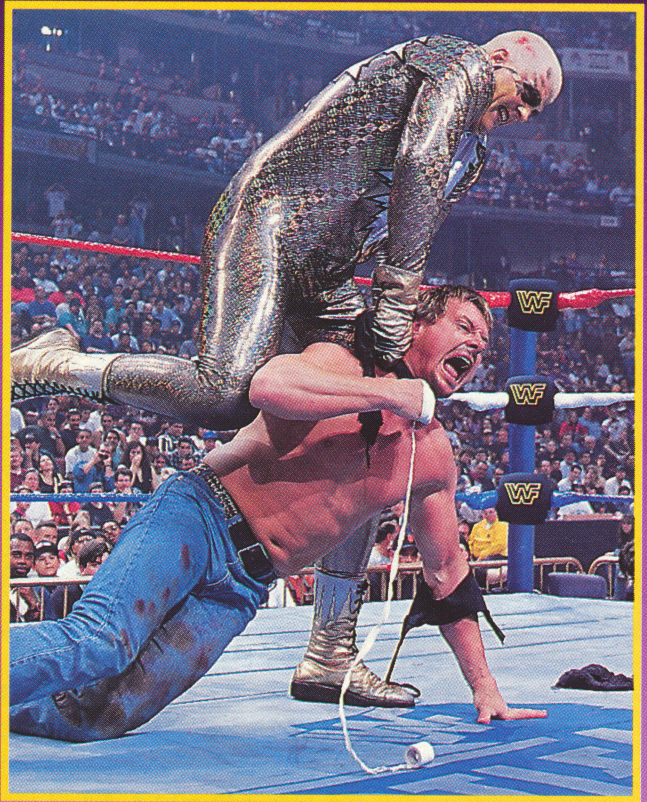
Each wrestler appeared to be knocked out. The referee counted: one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight... Suddenly, the Undertaker revived himself, and Big Daddy Cool followed suit. Diesel then went for a bearhug. Undertaker boxed his ears and executed a side suplex, followed by a flying tackle from the top rope.

Amazingly, Diesel recovered from this attack and shocked his opponent with a Jacknife. But rather than pin the Undertaker, Diesel taunted his fallen foe, nudging him with a foot to the chest. Undertaker sat up, but Big Daddy Cool kept his edge, and delivered a second Jacknife. Undertaker survived, choking his opponent. At that point Diesel took the Grim Reaper down with a side suplex.

Undertaker again got up, ran the ropes, plowed over Diesel with a flying elbow, and chokeslammed him to the mat. Scooping up Big Daddy Cool, Undertaker executed his dreaded Tombstone. Diesel's head bounced across the canvas as the Undertaker folded his opponent's hands across his chest.

As the referee counted the pinfall, the game playing was finally over. The Undertaker had managed to outlast his enemy, and he had convincingly won the longstanding battle.





HOLLYWOOD BACK LOT BRAWL

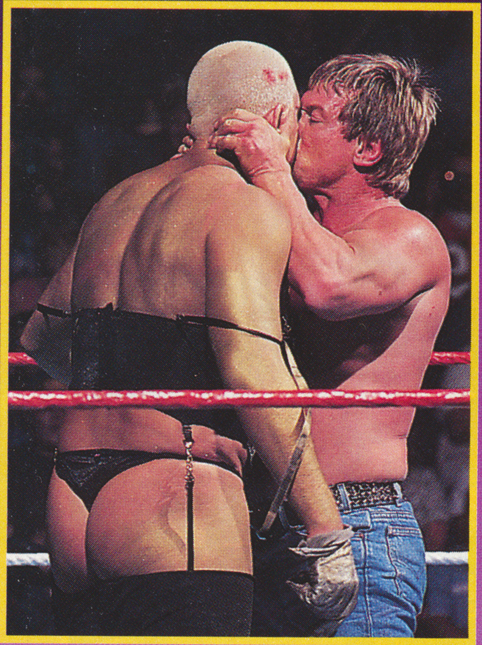
Rowdy Roddy Piper vs. Goldust

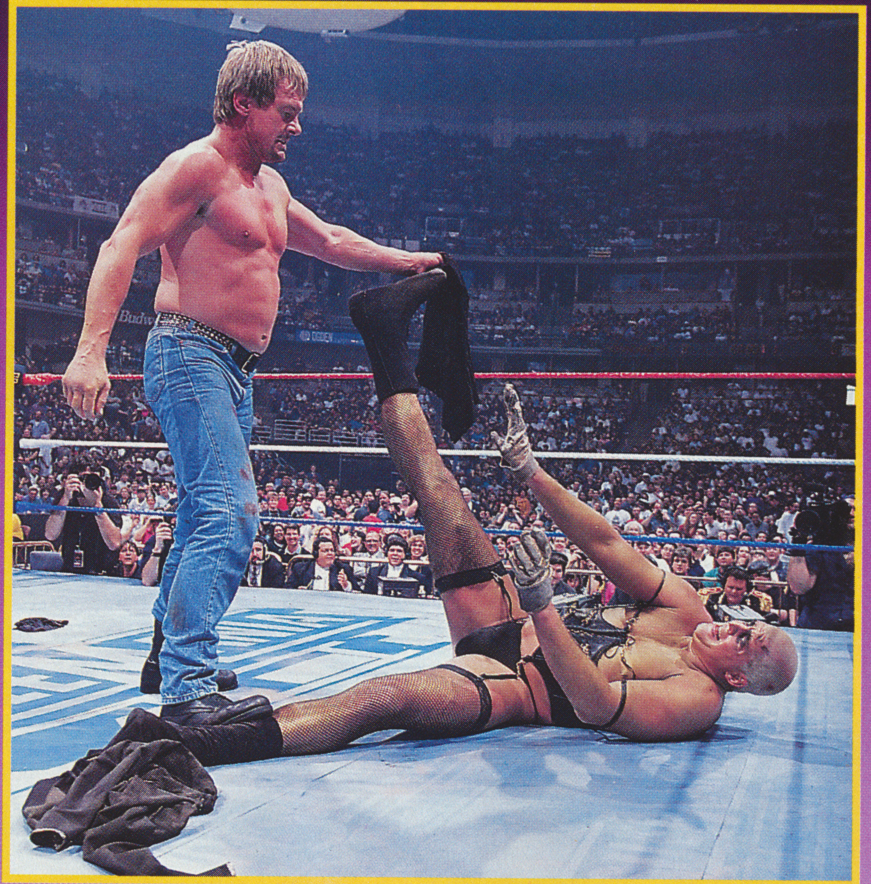
Rowdy Roddy Piper knew that Goldust had been trying to provoke him into combat. But Hot Rod—who'd recently been appointed acting interim president of the Federation—wasn't about to be sucked in, even when Goldust read the Wild Scot risqué poetry and mocked his Hibernian heritage. Finally, during an internationally broadcast interview, Piper had had enough. Goldust rapped him across the face when he was not looking, and Rowdy Roddy pledged to "make a man out of" his adversary.

Since both battlers had cinematic credentials—Goldust and his "director" Marlena frequently quote classic films, and Piper has appeared in numerous movies—the clash was held on a Hollywood back lot, with the rules allowing any weapon that might be lying around to be utilized.

Piper appeared on the set first, smacking a baseball bat into his palm. Then Goldust showed up, screeching forward in a gold Cadillac. Piper blasted the car with a firehose, then cracked the driver's windshield with the bat. Goldust scrambled out the other side of the car, but Piper went right after him, jamming the bat into the flamboyant one's head and neck, then driving him into a table that was piled with food for a nearby film crew.

"Are we close enough yet?" Piper yelled, cracking trays over his rival's head, denting a garbage





ROWDY RODDY PIPER "BELIEVE ME, IF THE HOT ROD DIDN'T MAKE A MAN OUT OF THAT FRUIT LOOP TODAY... THEN *NOBODY* CAN!"

can on Goldust's back, hurling him into the side of a dumpster and finally squirting him with the firehose. Taking the battle onto the hood of the Cadillac, Piper then dropped a fist onto Goldust's chest.

Rolling off the car, Goldust got in his first offensive move of the night: a low blow that doubled Piper over. Now Piper's head went into the side of the dumpster, and Goldust jumped back in his car and started the engine. First, he backed up, then sped forward, hitting Piper with the car. The Rowdy One leapt onto the hood, holding on as Goldust sped crazily around the set.

Wanting no more of Piper, Goldust slowed down enough for the World Wrestling Federation president to get off the hood, then drove away. Incredibly, Piper did not seem to be injured that badly. Limping slightly, he raced around the set, vowing to finish off Goldust somewhere else. The last thing the back lot cameras caught was the image of Piper getting into his white Ford Bronco and motoring after his enemy.

Later in the broadcast, fans watching the pay-per-view telecast saw live aerial footage of a number of police cars pursuing the Bronco as Piper chased after Goldust. The two eventually made it back to the arena, where Piper rammed Goldust's car outside the building. Goldust ran through the dressing room and into the aisle leading to the ring. Piper flew at him, and the two renewed their war between the ropes.

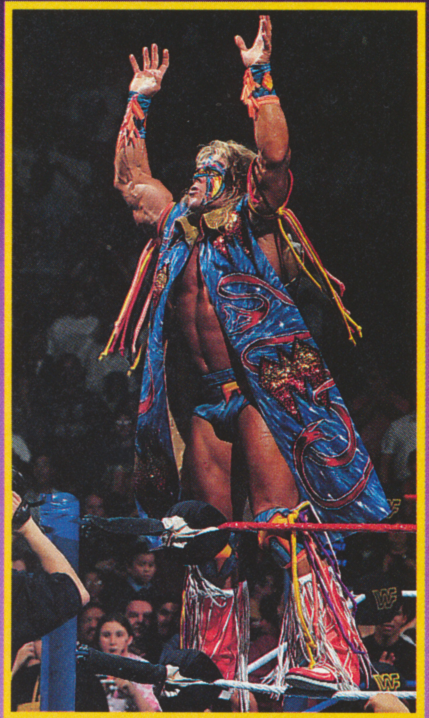
Goldust kicked out Piper's wheels, spread his limbs apart and legdropped Hot Rod. Then, the bizarre wrestler ripped off Piper's shirt and choked him with it. Straddling Piper's body, Goldust blew a kiss at his adversary, then scaled the ropes to do more damage. Hot Rod managed to shake the strands and knock his foe onto the buckles.

GOLDUST "NOW PRESIDENT PIPER WILL NEVER FORGET THE NAME... GOLDUST!"

Piper advanced on Goldust—and was shocked by a kiss on the lips! Raging, Piper grabbed his opponent's family jewels, swept him onto the mat, thrust a knee between Goldust's legs and spanked him. Then Piper ripped off Goldust's outfit, revealing nylons and garters as Marlena scrambled to the ring, covering up her charge and rushing him back to the dressing room.

As the fans cheered for the World Wrestling Federation president, Piper celebrated the victory by raising his son, Colton, high up onto his shoulders.

(*A side note*: Just as soon as the match had ended, Rowdy Roddy Piper handed the reins of the president's office back to the man who had preceded him as World Wrestling Federation president, Gorilla Monsoon.)



Ultimate Warrior vs. Hunter Hearst-Helmsley

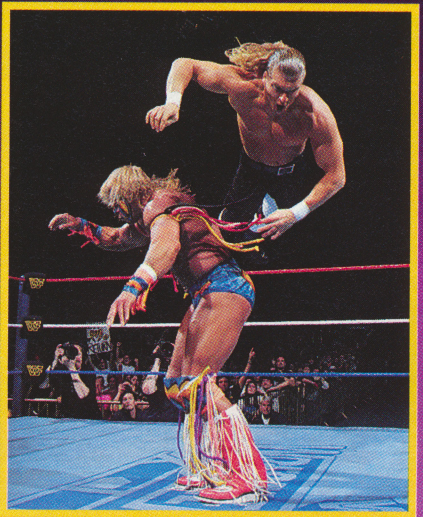
Helmsley entered the ring the way he always did, accompanied by a beautiful blonde and exuding arrogance. But something was different about this match. At *WrestleMania XII*, Helmsley was facing the Ultimate Warrior, the former champion who'd exploded across the wrestling universe a few years earlier, then mysteriously disappeared.

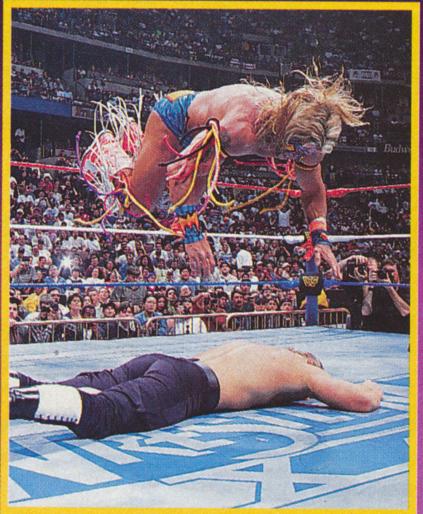
As fireworks erupted in the arena and the Warrior stampeded down the aisle, it was obvious that nothing about this competitor had changed. As always, the face-painted gladiator shook the ropes, climbed the buckles and pointed heavenward. Though he'd been gone for a long time, his "warriors" hadn't abandoned their hero. Virtually every one of the 18,000-plus fans in Anaheim rose to their feet, shouting the praises of this World Wrestling Federation legend.

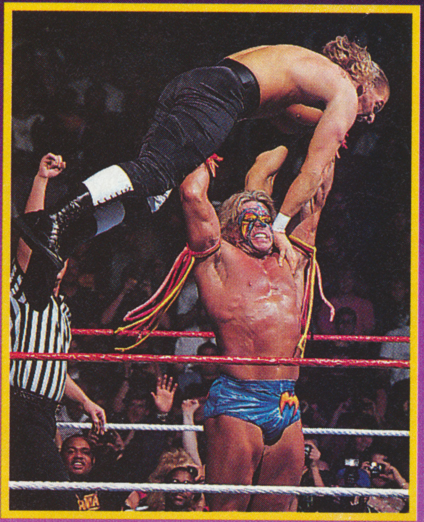
ULTIMATE WARRIOR
"AFTER A THREE AND HALF YEAR ABSENCE, THE ONE THING THAT NEVER DIED WAS THE VOICE OF THE WARRIORS! NOW IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO BRING THE 'SPIRIT OF THE WARRIOR' OUT OF THOSE VOICES!"

Helmsley tried shifting the momentum in his favor, assaulting the Warrior before he could even slip out of his entrance jacket. As the crowd looked on in silence, Helmsley swiftly executed his finisher, the Pedigree—double underhooking the Warrior's arms and driving his face into the canvas. But rather than succumbing to the lethal move, the Warrior simply got back on his feet, shook his head, removed the robe and started his celebrated ring dance.

The "American Blueblood" came at his foe and got knocked on the canvas with a roundhouse right. In a signature move, War-







HUNTER HEARST-HELMSLEY "BETWEEN MY VALET WORKING AGAINST ME AND NOT KNOWING WHO OR WHAT TO PREPARE FOR IN THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR, TRIPLE H NEVER HAD A CHANCE! THIS WAS A CONSPIRACY FROM THE BEGINNING!"

rior ran the ropes and chopped down Helmsley with clotheslines—once, twice and three times. Next came a shoulderblock. After that the gorilla press. Helmsley was dropped onto his chest. Warrior shot himself off the ropes, splashed across Hunter's back, turned him over, planted a knee on his chest and listened to the referee count to three—just like six years ago when the superstar won the Federation Title at *WrestleMania VI*.

To add insult to injury, on the way back to the dressing room, Helmsley encountered Wildman Mark Mero preparing to make his debut in the World Wrestling Federation. Words were exchanged before Helmsley found himself rolling on the floor in his second debilitating fight of the night.

Yokozuna, Ahmed Johnson & Jake "The Snake" Roberts vs. Vader, The British Bulldog & Owen Hart

For manager Jim Cornette, everything was on the line in this opening contest. If his team of Vader, Bulldog and Owen failed to emerge victorious, his former protegé Yokozuna would get five minutes alone with his onetime advisor. Vader and Yoko began by hammering each other. Within seconds, all the combatants were between the ropes. When the smoke cleared, Yokozuna clotheslined Vader over the ropes, then sailed Ahmed in the same direction—flattening Vader on the arena floor.

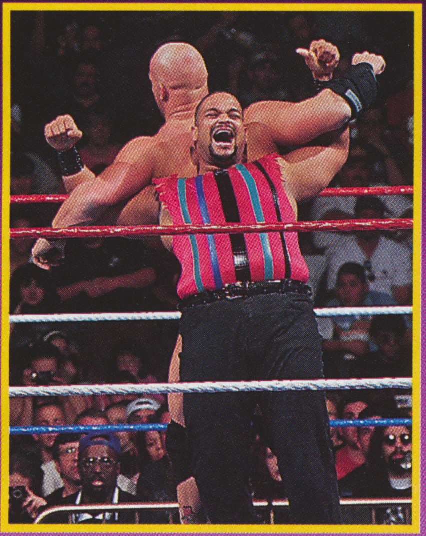
Yoko was on a roll. Owen tried dropkicking him, but Yoko barely noticed. When he tried avalanching Hart, though, the Bulldog pulled his partner to safety. Yoko crashed into the turnbuckles, and all three foes pounced on him. Then Yoko grabbed Vader under the chin and slammed him into the mat. Now Johnson came in and positioned the Bulldog for the Pearl River Plunge, but Owen broke up the finisher by coming off the top rope with a dropkick. Seeing Johnson down, Owen took advantage, stomping on Ahmed, then whacking him in the head with a crescent kick.

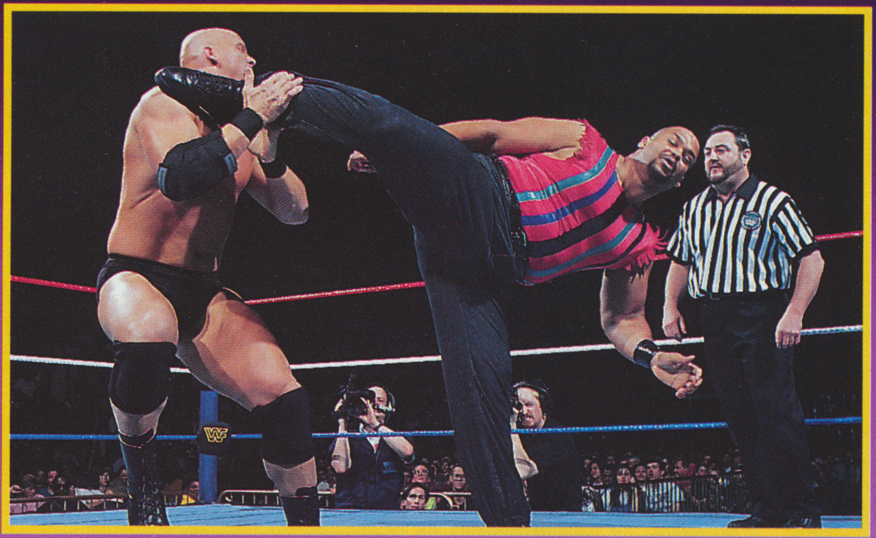
JIM CORNETTE
"IT'S HARDER THAN CHINESE ARITHMETIC FOR YOKOZUNA TO ADMIT THIS, BUT I MADE HIM AND I CAN ALSO BREAK HIM!"

AHMED JOHNSON
"ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT CAMP CORNETTE WILL PAY DEARLY FOR WHAT THEY DID!"

Ahmed tagged Jake, who came in with fists flying. Owen fell victim to a short-arm clothesline and kneelift. But when Roberts charged him, Hart delivered a foot to the face. After a long hiatus from the ring, Jake was now triple-teamed by three of the most dangerous men in the Federation: enduring a Vader Avalanche, a Hart flying elbow and a Bulldog powerslam. Still, he hung tough, kicking out from nearfalls and tagging out to Yoko.

With images of torturing Cornette in his mind, Yoko pounded Vader. The two took their battle to ringside, where they were joined by Johnson and the Bulldog. In the ring, Jake caught Owen with the DDT, but the referee's attention was on the combatants outside the ropes. Cornette tried smashing Roberts with a tennis racket, but Jake rammed his head into the manager's stomach and caught him in a DDT. As Jake turned away from the manager, Vader returned to the ring, leveled Roberts with a clothesline, climbed to the second rope and pinned the Snake after a Vader Bomb.





Savio Vega vs. Stone Cold Steve Austin

Vega, living out his fantasy of finally appearing in a *WrestleMania*, entered the ring with his shoulder still throbbing from a Million Dollar Dream applied by Austin in an earlier altercation. Austin tried using this as a handicap, punching Vega as soon as he stepped through the ropes. But Savio was on fire, unleashing a flurry of fists, a headbutt and a sideslam. The war was soon being raged outside the ring, where Savio punished Austin with knife-edge chops. Back on the mat, Stone Cold Steve caught his foe with a hard right and boot to the mid-section, then rammed him into the ringpost.

SAVIO VEGA
"I'M GONNA STAY AWAKE AT NIGHT JUST THINKIN' ABOUT REVENGE!"

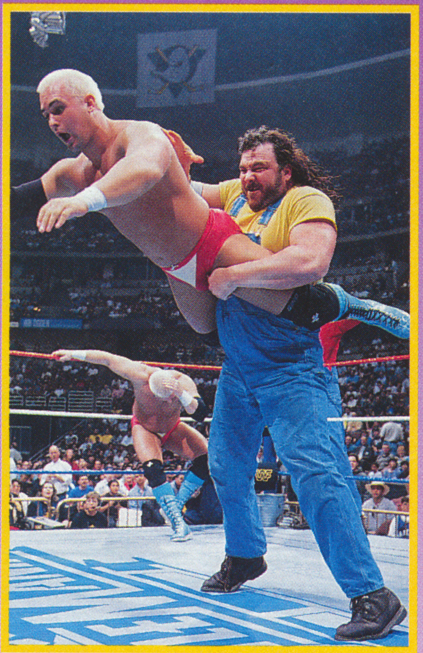
Vega kept fighting. He tried delivering a spinning kick, but Austin ducked under it. Savio tried again, this time landing the blow and flooring Austin. With his manager Ted DiBiase spurring him on, Austin showed another side of his wrestling persona—a highly technical athlete with scientific moves—catching Vega in an armbar, lifting him in a hammerlock and dropping him on the canvas.

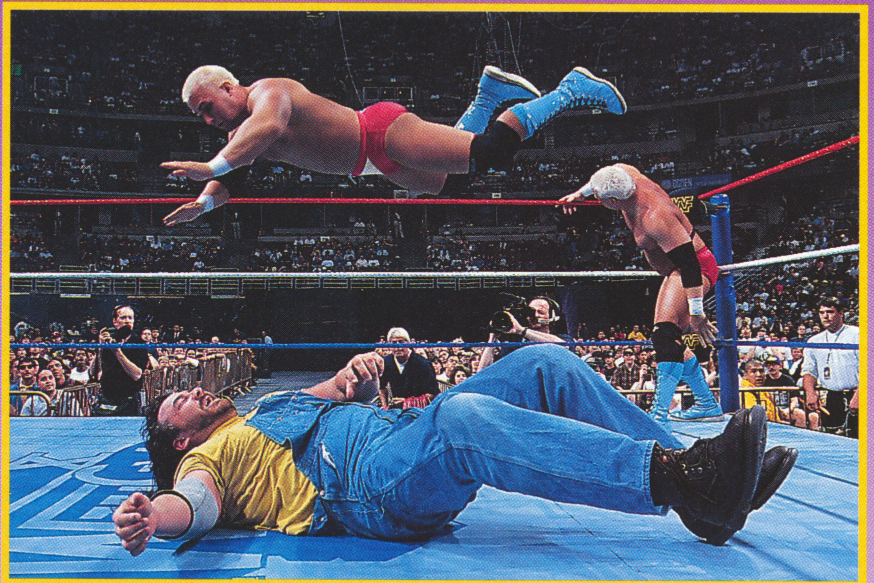
Vega ascended to the second rope and tried a dive, but Austin reacted defensively, catching Savio with a raised boot. Now Austin climbed to the top rope and leapt off. But this time it was Vega who lifted his foot and pegged his attacker on the way down. Both men were on the mat, gasping for air. They struggled to their feet and picked up where they left off, flailing away with fists. Vega managed to gain an edge in the exchange, backflipping Austin, hitting him with two consecutive clotheslines and flying at him with a spinning kick.

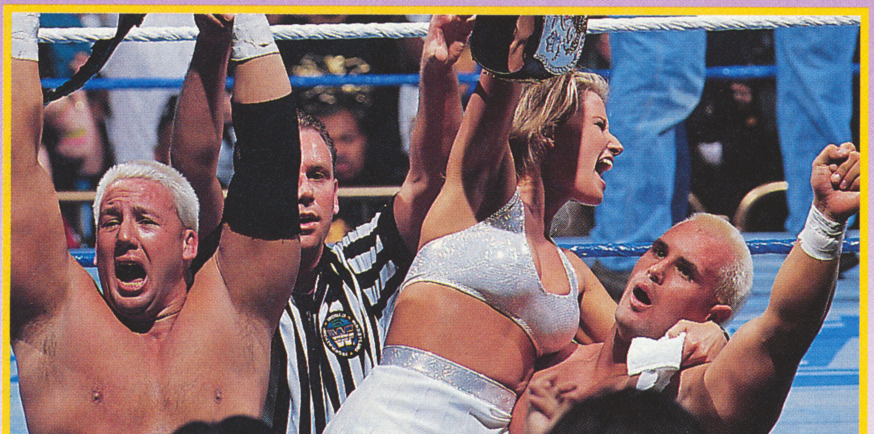
Again, Austin responded defensively, slipping out of the way. This time, the referee took the hit, crumpling to the canvas.

Hoping to tilt the match in Austin's favor, DiBiase put the Million Dollar Belt—his gift to his protegé—on the canvas. Not noticing, Vega tried reviving the official, then argued with DiBiase. In the bedlam, Austin grabbed the belt and clocked Vega. Savio fell to the mat, unconscious. As Austin trapped Vega in the Million Dollar Dream, DiBiase revived the referee by splashing him with a cold drink. The arbiter crawled over to the combatants and stated Vega was in no shape to continue. Through DiBiase's chicanery, his Million Dollar Champion scored a hollow victory.

STONE COLD STEVE AUSTIN
"SAVIO VEGA IS COMPLAINING THAT I HIT HIM IN THE HEAD WITH THE MILLION DOLLAR BELT...WELL, IF I COULD HAVE HIT HIM HARDER—I WOULD HAVE."







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In a free program broadcast just before *WrestleMania XII*, the Body Donnas were victorious over the Godwinn Brothers in the finals of the World Wrestling Federation Tag Team Championships when Skip rolled up Phineas Godwinn as he gawked at Sunny.

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SLAMMY 1996 AWARDS

And The

It's the World Wrestling Federation's version of the Oscars, the Slammy Awards, a unique, black-tie ceremony blending glitz, camp and tear-jerking emotion. This past March 30th, the Slammy Awards were held a stone's throw away from Hollywood at the Anaheim Marriott. *WrestleMania XII* was one day away and at the back of the mind of every guest. Apparently, the extravaganza was also a preoccupation of the Slammy Award selection committee—fans who voted on the choices through ballots printed in *World Wrestling Federation Magazine* and available through America OnLine. Throughout the evening, the bulk of the Slammy trophies went to either World Wrestling Federation Champion Bret "Hit Man" Hart or Shawn Michaels, his challenger in the *WrestleMania XII* main event.

Among the Slammy Award categories:

BEST SLAMMIN' JAMMIN' ENTRANCE: Ted DiBiase and his protegé Stone Cold Steve Austin mocked the crowd before delivering this award to Shawn Michaels. The news stunned Goldust, who was already on his feet, ready to grab the trophy. But this was Michaels' time in the spotlight. He made it clear that the sentiments of his loyal fans—better known as "The Kliq"—were being publicly acknowledged. Then, as a lesson to all future opponents, he pronounced, "If you're gonna talk the trash, you'd better be able to strut the stuff."

BEST THREADS: No one questioned the fact that winner Shawn Michaels was "tailor-made" for this honor. As the fans cheered him on, Shawn waved his seamstress, Julie, onto the stage and handed her the trophy. "She's the wonderful lady who makes me look as good as I look," he said. "And... I'd like to thank Mom and Dad just for the genetics."

LEADER OF THE NEW GENERATION: Presenter Rowdy Roddy Piper came to the podium accompanied by his own son, Colt, and a two-bagpipe band. Piper first made it clear that he "paved the way" for the World Wrestling Federation's New Generation, then embraced its anointed leader, Shawn Michaels. Shawn couldn't help but gloat a little. From his seat, Bret Hart was clearly disappointed by the pick. But he kept his emotions in check, deciding to unleash them instead at the appropriate moment the next night at *WrestleMania XII*.

MASTER OF MAT MECHANICS: The family tension continued as presenter Mr. Perfect listed the nominees. Owen, Bret and the Bulldog were all candidates. But they were all passed over, as Shawn Michaels was given the award. On the eve of the most important match of his life, the No. 1 challenger for the World Wrestling Federation Title showed rare humility, handing

Winner Is...

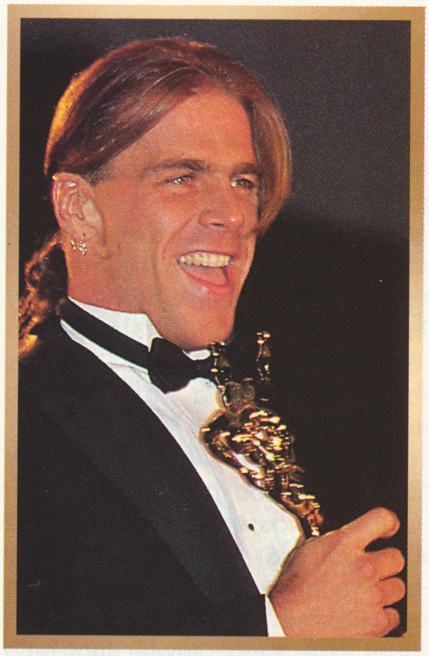
his Slammy to the man he claimed really deserved it: Jose Lothario, the legendary Mexican wrestler who'd trained the Heartbreak Kid for the mat wars.

MATCH OF THE YEAR: Announcer Jim Ross—arguably the best play-by-play man in the business—was a fitting presenter. Ross, who'd called some of the greatest matches in history, had to concede that the winning pick, Shawn Michaels' *SummerSlam* victory over Razor Ramon in a grueling ladder match, was one for the ages. Michaels accepted his award, but it was apparent that his mind wasn't on *SummerSlam* but on *WrestleMania XII*. As Shawn spoke about his upcoming match, most in the room theorized that it would surpass the ladder match in emotion, athleticism and excitement.

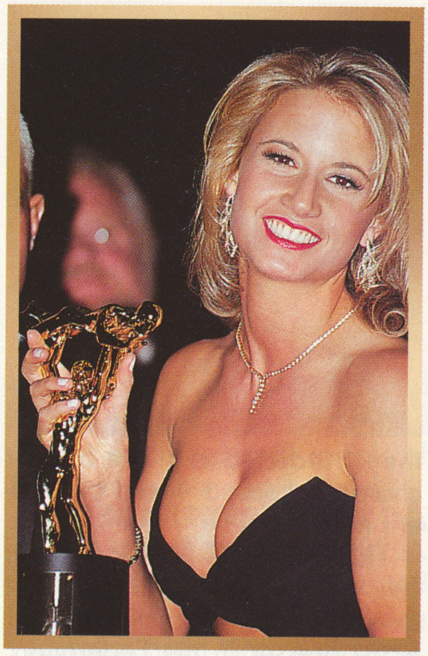
BEST BUNS: Sunny was the hands-on favorite to win this prize. But when the Godwinn Brothers and Hillbilly Jim presented her with the award, her attitude was strictly hands-off. "I bet that you would all like a peek to see why I won best buns," she told her presenters, pulling up the fabric of her gown. As the hillbillies' eyes bulged out, she quickly wheeled away from the podium and sneered, "I don't think so."

MINDS BEHIND THE MAYHEM: Rod Perth, the executive vice president of programming for USA network, told the fans no other promotion could ever compare to the World Wrestling Federation. Then he handed Sunny her second Slammy of the night for her exceptional managerial skills. "I deserved to win!" an irate Jim Cornette screamed from the aisle. As Cornette's protegés restrained him, Sunny hit up Perth for a recurring program on USA called *The Sunny Show*.

PUT A FORK IN HIM, HE'S DONE AWARD (BEST FINISHER): Bob Backlund presented this award with a representative from Tyco R/C Maximum Heat. Backlund pushed his co-presenter aside to deliver a short campaign speech. Then a Tyco truck came out carrying the envelope listing the winner: Bret Hart's Sharpshooter. Bret acknowledged that he was in for a "very, very tough match" with Michaels the next night but vowed that fans would learn "I'm everything I say I am."



Shawn Michaels was awarded: Best Slammin' Jammin' Entrance, Best Threads, Leader of the New Generation, Master of Mat Mechanics and Match of the Year.



Sunny was awarded: Best Buns and Minds Behind the Mayhem

Bret Hart was awarded: Put a Fork in It He's Done (Best Finisher), Best Music Video and Hall of Fame Bound Award

And The

BEST MUSIC VIDEO: As presenter Dok Hendrix proclaimed, "And the winner is..." Sunny raised her arms triumphantly, certain that her sexy video had eclipsed all others. But the prize went to World Wrestling Federation titlist Bret Hart for his heartfelt, inspiring video *You Start the Fire*, a sensitively done piece about the ideals of being a champion. As Sunny complained, Bret embraced his young son Blade, then led him up to the podium and handed him the award. From his seat, Bret's *WrestleMania XII* adversary Shawn Michaels applauded for his foe, but Hit Man quickly reminded the crowd that within 24 hours all feelings of affection between the two men would be temporarily shelved.

HALL OF FAME BOUND AWARD: This category was decided by fans at home who called in and voted on the question, "Which World Wrestling Federation champion, past or present, in attendance tonight is Hall of Fame bound?" After the numbers were calculated, World Wrestling Federation Hall of Famer and president Gorilla Monsoon bestowed the honor on the inimitable Bret Hart. Hart thanked his father, Stu, a former wrestling star who trained all his sons for greatness. And the Hit Man mentioned his children, youngsters who may one day carry the Hart legacy into the ring.

CRIME OF THE CENTURY: Jim Cornette brought out his "personal litigator" Clarence Mason to present the award with him. Both were thrilled to declare that the most notorious incident of the year was Vader's attack on then-World Wrestling Federation Interim President Gorilla Monsoon. As Vader snatched his trophy, his manager, Cornette, shouted that Monsoon "may have been the first, but he won't be the last." The adviser then predicted that his former charge Yokozuna would be Vader's next victim.

THE BLUE LIGHT SPECIAL AWARD: This was the flip side of the "best threads" prize, a distinction for worst dresser in the Federation. Cornette, sporting a polyester tuxedo with a ketchup red shirt, took the citation, but he wasn't too happy about it. "Thank you very much," he snorted. "You're welcome even less."

MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT: The legendary Bushwhackers, Luke and Butch, two men who've never known any shame, presented this award to Jerry "The King" Lawler for his humiliating loss to Bret "Hit Man" Hart in a "Kiss My Foot" match. Lawler was steaming as he entered the ring where the presenters stood, embarrassing himself further by stumbling over the stairs. But that didn't measure up to the disgrace that he felt when Slammy host Todd Pettengill slapped a Burger King logo on Lawler's back, prompting onlookers to howl with scorn.

I'M TALKING AND I CAN'T SHUT UP: Billionaire Ted hobnobbed with George Foster—a long-retired baseball star whom the wealthy one recently tried to sign—then got behind the podium and told Jerry "The King" Lawler that he'd won this particular Slammy. Lawler claimed that he didn't talk too much but simply told it like it is. After he verbally skewered Ahmed Johnson, Bob "Spark Plugg" Holly and Bret Hart's mother, Lawler's words were finally drowned out by music the producers blared into the room.

NEW SENSATION OF THE SQUARED CIRCLE: Three stars from the new USA Network action show *Pacific Blue* stepped into the makeshift ring that served as a stage and

Winner Is...

actually challenged the Body Donnas to a match. Fortunately for the actors, Skip and Zip were feeling a bit sedate and chose not to rise from their seats. With their health intact, the presenters delivered the honor to the master of the Pearl River Plunge, Ahmed Johnson. Johnson threw in a few jabs at the other "WheelChair Wrestling Federation" and reminded followers, "This is not my award. This is your award—the people."

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION'S GREATEST HITS: Goldust and his "director" Marlena were a bizarre presence on stage as they went through the list of nominees for the biggest smash-up of 1995. When they opened the envelope, though, they refused to read the name of the winner: the Undertaker, for emerging through a hole in the ring to pull in Diesel during a cage match with Bret Hart. Looking forward to his confrontation with Big Daddy Cool at *WrestleMania XII*, Undertaker vowed, "That was only a small sample of the darkness that awaits Diesel."

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: This was one of the most prestigious awards of the night— presented by no less than World Wrestling Federation head Vince McMahon. Choking up, the presenter spoke warmly of Classy Freddy Blassie, a member of the mat fraternity since 1935 who'd wrestled on cards promoted by McMahon's father and grandfather. Though he'd been a notorious braggart throughout much of his career, Blassie spoke of traveling the globe and "meeting the finest people in the world, people like yourselves." With the exception of his children, he said, he derived his greatest pleasure from his experiences in the Federation—not only performing in the ring but meeting homeless veterans, disabled youngsters and run-of-the-mill fans.

SQUARED CIRCLE SHOCKER: Hunter Hearst-Helmsley, parading up to the podium with a curvaceous lady draped on his arm— and blatantly flirting with the other beauties nearby—seemed unconcerned about his impending match with the Ultimate Warrior at *WrestleMania XII*. Helmsley announced that the most shocking moment of the year occurred when Shawn Michaels collapsed on *Monday Night Raw*, then thanked "the man who made it all possible, Owen Hart." Owen accepted the trophy and further aggravated the rift in his family by declaring that he—not brother Bret—was the "best there is, best there was and the best there ever will be." While Owen's brother-in-law the British Bulldog cheered every word, Bret and his parents, Stu and Helen Hart, looked on in disgust. WF

One Man's Gain . . . is

The words on this page can't describe the emotions that were being worn in the ring.

Center stage: Shawn Michaels. To put it mildly, the Heartbreak Kid was out on his boots. He could barely stand tall—let alone strike a pose or dance all over anyone's face. The victory celebration was played out at a phonographic speed of 16 as Shawn "attempted" to savor the moment.

Exit stage left: Bret Hart. Like a purple-hearted soldier who had just lost the battle over the land—his land—disappointment tattooed itself all over his face. This was the one that he had wanted the most, and this was the one that barely got away. In the end... overtime was just a second too long.

Upstage: Earl Hebner. Perhaps the emotion that painted this canvas even more brilliantly than any other was being stroked by referee Earl Hebner. Practically crumbling with exhaustion, the winded zebra didn't even have the strength to snap the Federation Championship Belt around the new champion's waist. After spending what seemed like days on this mountainous task, the Heartbreak Kid gently shoved him aside and strapped himself—the victor.

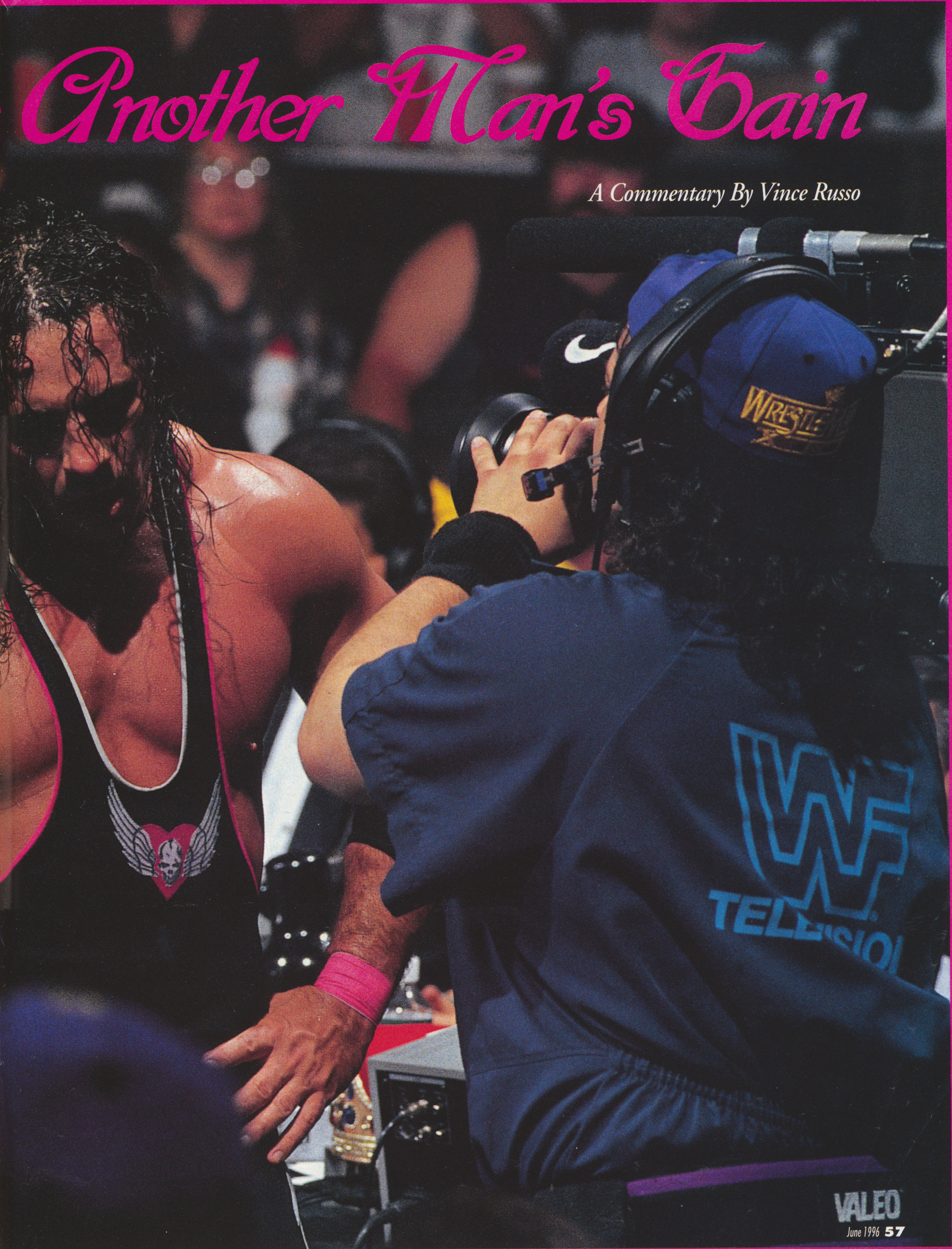
I had seen them all. One on closed-circuit, four live and six on pay-per-view... but I had never seen one like this. At the bell's ring, I found myself both physically and mentally exhausted from *WrestleMania XII's* Iron Man Match.

There is so much that I want to say during this commentary, so many letters I want to strike on my keyboard. However, by some force—some much higher force—my fingers are being drawn to the keys B-R-E-T H-A-R-T. Take nothing away from Shawn Michaels; it's just that we'll be talking about him for at least the next decade! The Heartbreak Kid has only rock-n-rolled across the surface. He hasn't even touched his potential yet—but he will. And when he does, he may very well stand alone as simply THE BEST. That title is there for the taking; now all he has to do is take it! But for now, this article is devoted to Bret Hart. There is nothing I can say that isn't going to come across as sappy or "cliché-ish"—but you know what?—I really don't give a damn. Aside from some gold, Bret Hart lost nothing at *WrestleMania XII*. One man's gain was another man's gain. In the eyes of everyone, Bret left that ring the same champion he was when he entered it. Sometimes there is more to it than a piece of leather.

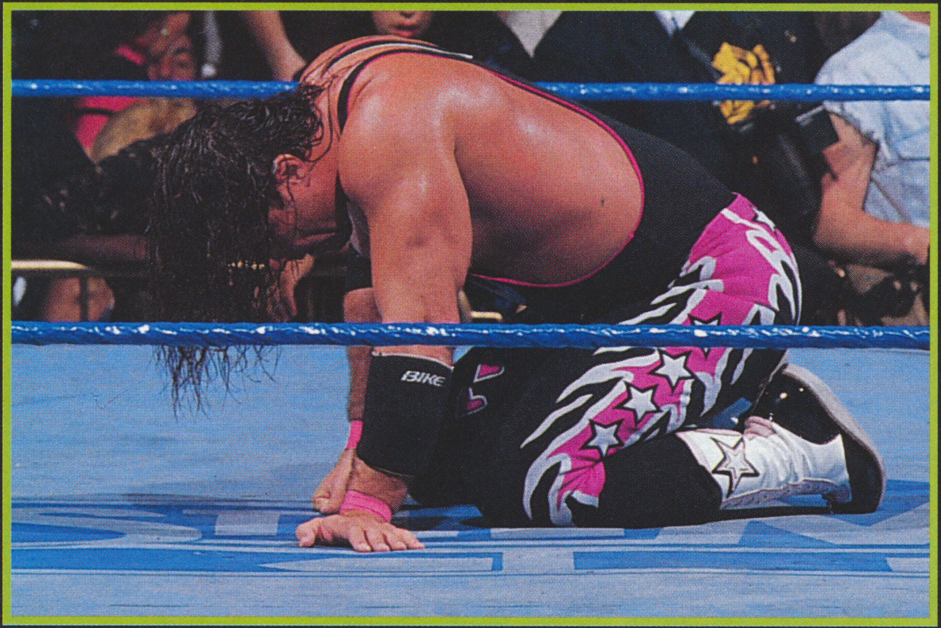
Looking back over the past two years, I have learned more from Bret Hart than I have ever learned from any other professional athlete in my life. This isn't about being the "Excellence of Execution." As a matter of fact, it doesn't even have anything to do with it. This is about a man simply being the best man that he can

Another Man's Gain

A Commentary By Vince Russo



VALEO



be! Loyalty, dedication, honor, dignity and pride, both inside and outside of the ring. From the overbearing Titan suits to the "boys" in the locker room to his adoring fans to his loving family, Bret Hart gave his all—ALL THE TIME—to everybody. And that's exactly how he went out at *WrestleMania XII*. Giving his blood, sweat and tears—the only way he knew how. Giving his fans what they have grown so accustomed to—and what they so expected.

No matter what happened throughout his career, BRET HART NEVER CHANGED! He walked into his career much the same way he exited the ring after the crushing *Mania* defeat—with his head held high—with class. But to Bret Hart that was just the way he went about business. He didn't know any other way. Believe me, I've seen that World Wrestling Federation Belt change the gentlest of giants into yelling, screaming, snorting, demanding, greedy beasts, but not Bret. Whether he was on top of the world or it had just collapsed at his feet, you always got the same man. That is what you call PROFESSIONALISM. Remembering where you came from. Remembering the people who extended a helping hand along the way, and the fans who helped put you there. That trait is rare in this day and age of sports-entertainment. If you won't take my word for it, then just take a look around. See what's happening. Superstars jumping federations like 10-year-old kids trade baseball cards. Nine times out of ten, it's all about greed. It's all about me, myself and I. It has nothing to do with the fans. Who cares about them? They don't put money in my pockets! The fans, who cares about them? How many years has Bret Hart been in the World Wrestling Federation? Is it 11, maybe? I remember other superstars telling me how loyal they were, how they didn't want to be "the big fish in a little pond." That exact quote came from Randy Savage. Well, Bret Hart will never swim in a little pond because he is just too damn big to fit in it! And, in the eyes of all of us—THE FANS—that is what separates him from the mere mortals.

Despite all the rumors of retirement, there is no doubt in this editor's mind that Bret Hart will return to the World Wrestling Federation. If not for anything else other than the simple fact he knows that's what his fans want. However, ultimately the only one who can make that decision is Bret Hart. The bottom line is: He owes us nothing. If anything, we owe him for 11 years of being the best there is, the best there was and the best there ever will be—IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD!

Thank you, champ.

PIN 'em DOWN

QUESTION

Dear 1-2-3 Kid,
Since the Million Dollar Man Ted DiBiase acquired the services of Stone Cold Steve Austin, you seem to have been pushed to the "rear" of the Corporation. How do you feel about that?

Eric Terkildsen
Newtown, CT

ANSWER

What Federation have you been following? Maybe you should thicken your Coke-bottle glasses just a tad more! I am currently at the top of my game! I'm in the best condition of my life! Forget Steve Austin! Soon I will be riding high in the penthouse once again!

???
???
???

Q: DEAR BUTCH & LUKE OF THE BUSHWHACKERS,
Hey, I heard that you guys recently opened up a restaurant somewhere. Is that true?

William Clark, Arlington, TX

A: AYEEE! Ya heard right, mate! *Me and Cousin Luke are now the proud proprietors of an eatery called "The Bushwhackers Down Under," which is located in Tampa, Florida! We have some of the best food in the world! Our master chefs specialize in some tasty dishes from Australia and New Zealand—you know, our neck of the woods, mate!! Why don't you join us there for a bite to eat someday! Maybe we'll even lick your plate for ya when you're done!* **AYEEE!!!**

Q DEAR STONE COLD STEVE AUSTIN,
What makes you so stone cold?

Linda Carlisle
Little Rock, AR

A Maybe that I have no feelings. Maybe that I have no remorse. Maybe that I get a thrill out of another man's pain. Maybe because broken bones, ripped ligaments, popped blood vessels and scarred skin are a few of my favorite things. Does that answer your question... sweetheart?

QUESTION:

Dear Verdure,
Why do you wear that muzzle on your face?

Sam Glimmer
San Diego, CA

ANSWER:

I wear it because it makes Verdure look like an untamed, wild animal! A vicious, reckless mastodon! Do you have a problem with that, punk?!!! I didn't think so!!!

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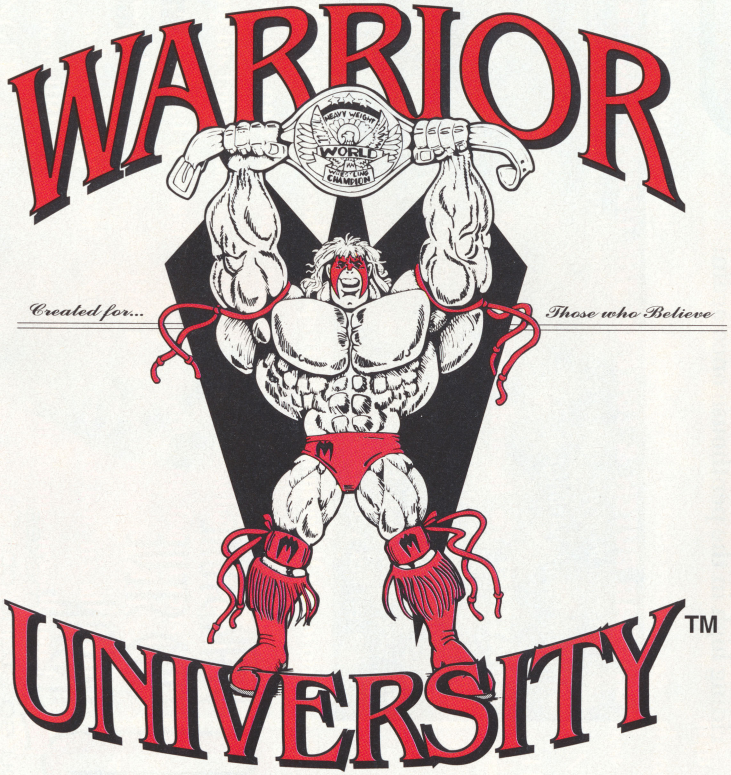

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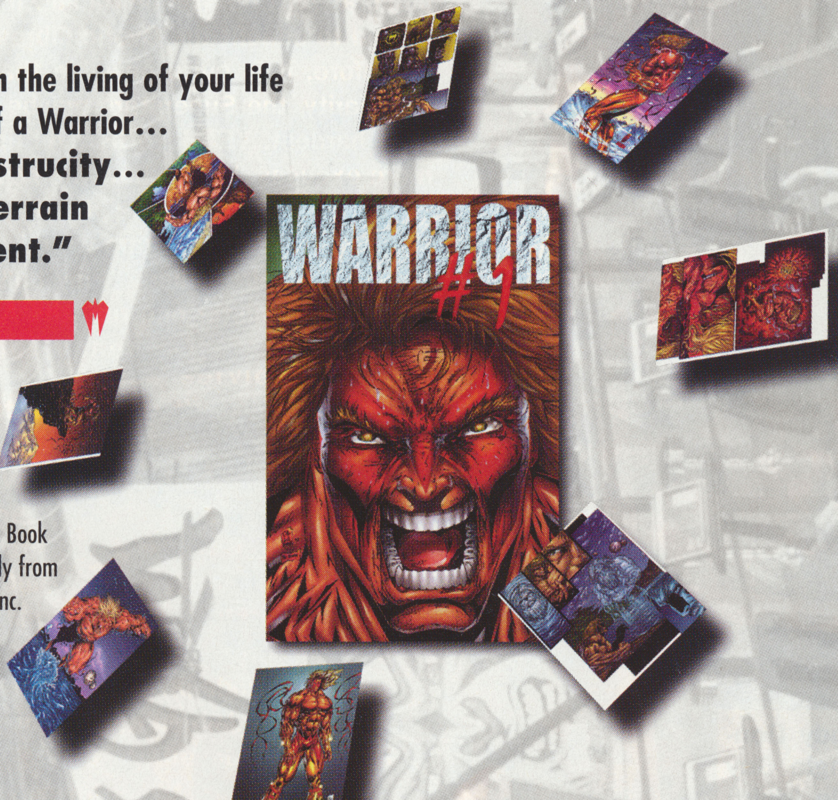

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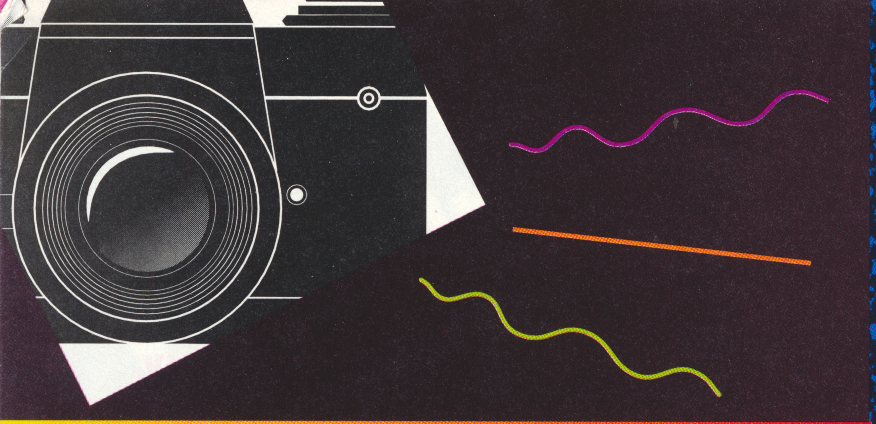
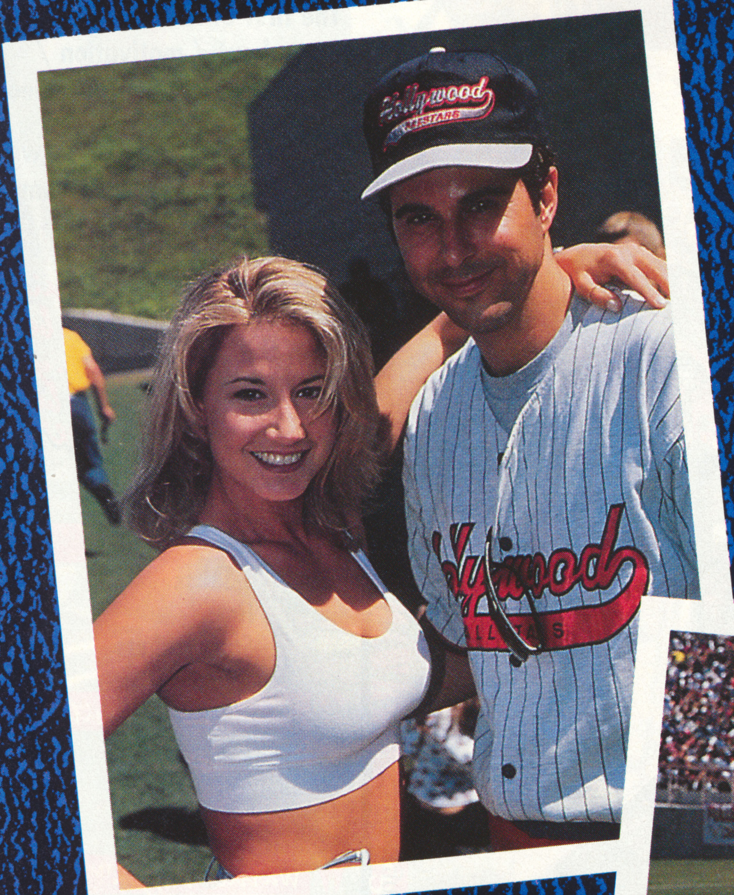


private eye

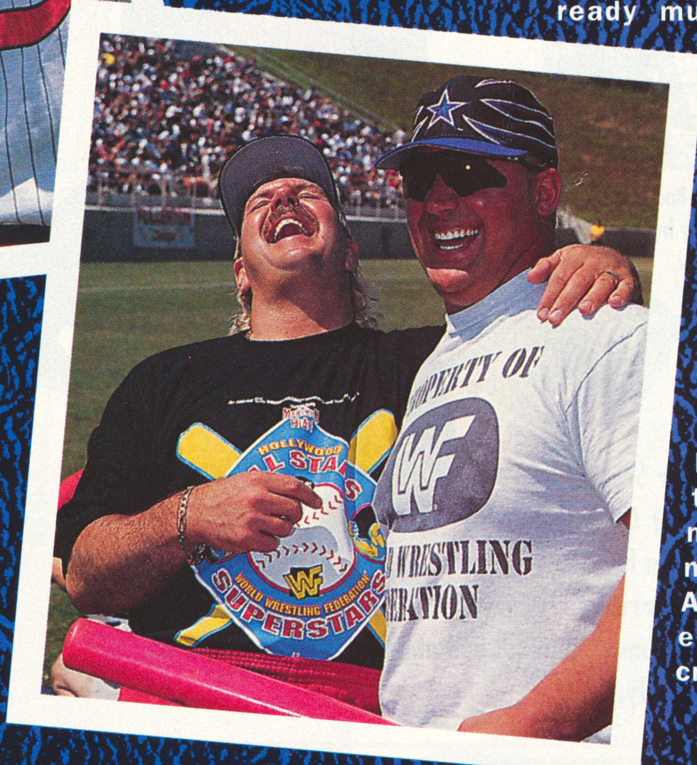
Rocked, Then Rol
Hollywood Bodyslams

PHOTOS BY H. DIROCCO



So what! The game didn't mean anything! It didn't even count in the standings, for cryin' out loud! Excuses? You're absolutely right! But how else am I going to explain an 18-4 drubbing of the Federation Superstars at the hands—and bats—of the Hollywood All-Stars? The massacre, I mean game, which took place as part of WrestleMania XII weekend, was played to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Therefore, it is quite possible that since it was for charity, the Superstars maybe weren't trying their hardest. YEAH, RIGHT! All right already, no more excuses. Here's how the beating went:

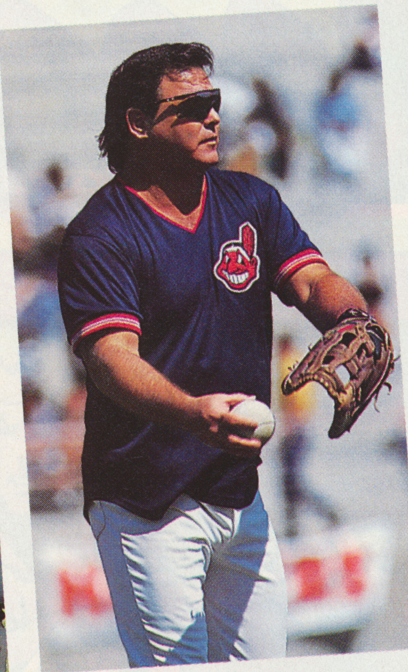
Led by Jerry "The King" Lawler on the mound, the Federation Superstars were in trouble by the time the umpire yelled, "Play ball!" Before they could even muster one run, the All-Stars had already mustered six! Let's just say that the fielding of the Superstars left "a little" to be desired—IF you know what I mean. Oh, yes, they were calling for a lot of fly balls, except they just were not catching many of 'em. Add to that the extremely crafty pitching



Above: Sunny of the Body Donnas hams it up with Single Guy Jonathan Silverman, while (right) Dok Hendrix yaks it up with Mr. Perfect. Opposite page: The King (top) is on the hill, while the team rivals pose (center) and Aldo Montoya (bottom) rips.

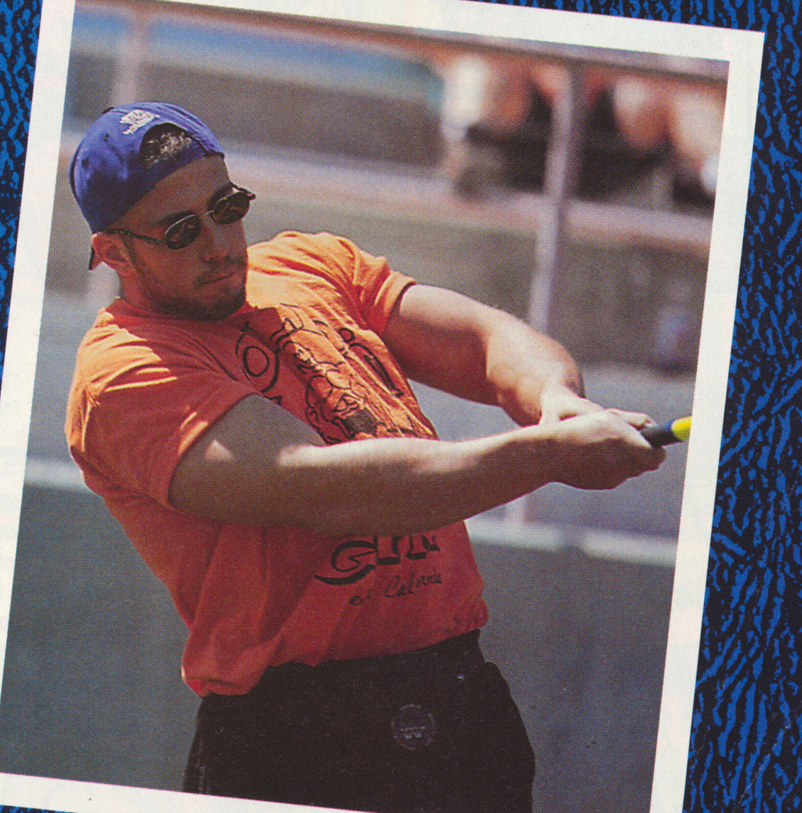
ed, Then Rocked Again!

The Federation!



of "Welcome Back Kotter's" Juan Epstein (played by Robert Hedges), not to mention the pesky hitting of "Single Guy" Jonathan Silverman, along with the THREE home runs by the "Young and the Restless'" David Cowgill (whose services were bought later on in the game by Ted DiBiase), and you pretty much have a blow-out on your hands, kids! Leading the "pop gun" attack for the Federation Superstars were Duke "The Dumpster" Droese, Bart Gunn, Bob Holly, Barry Horowitz, Aldo Montoya and Mr. Perfect (who made me swear not to tell you about his "possible" error when he claimed to have lost the ball in the sun), who all chipped in with a hit.

All kidding aside, and I wish that I was, the softball game was a smashing success for not only the Hollywood All-Stars but also for the team that meant the most—the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

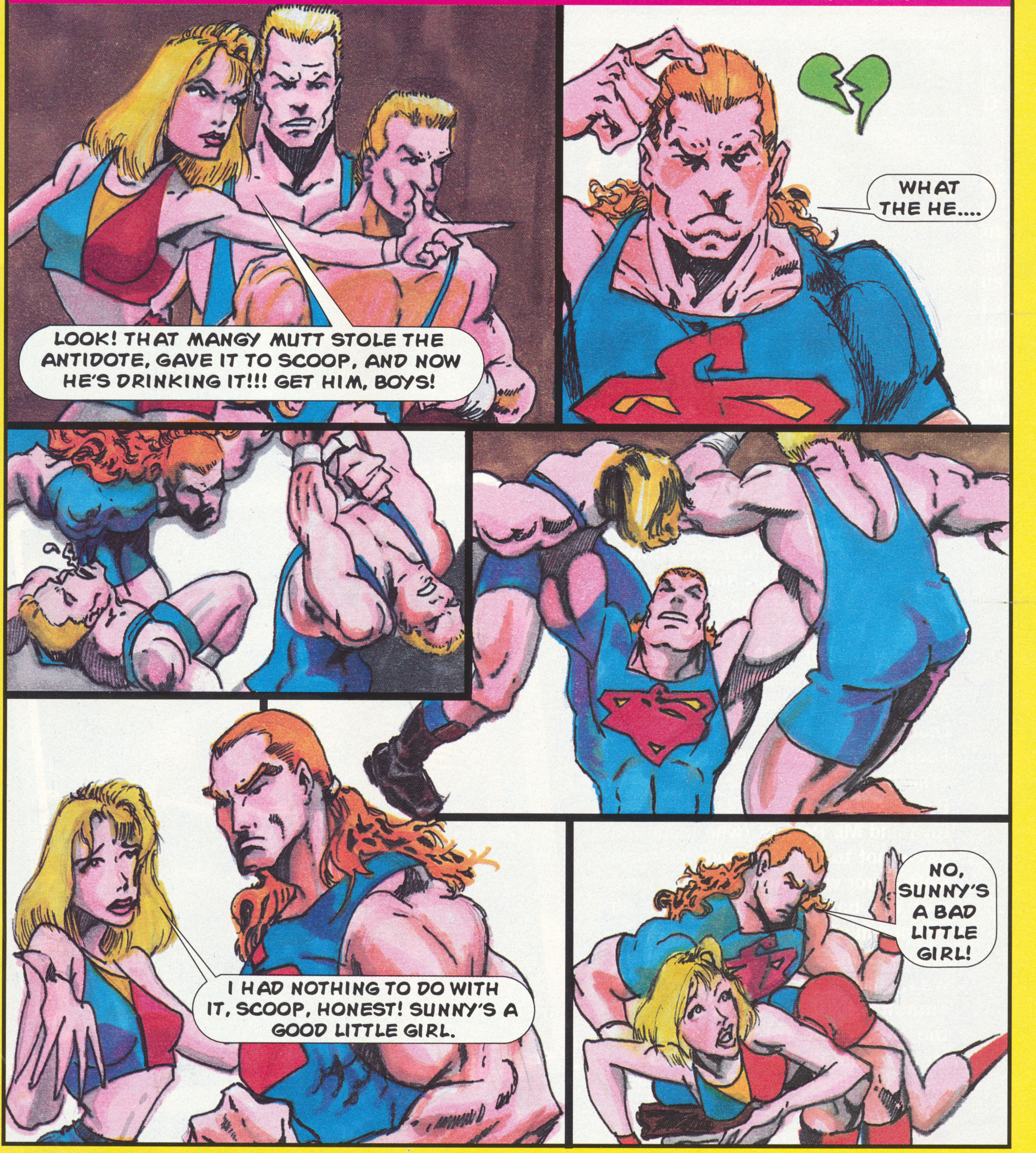


SCOOP SULLIVAN

ARTIST HOWARD M. COLBERT
WRITER VINCE RUSSO

SQUARED CIRCLE SUPERHERO

WHEN WE LAST LEFT SCOOP SULLIVAN, BIG DADDY DOG STOLE THE ANTIDOTE TO SUNNY'S LUST POTION AND HAD JUST DELIVERED IT TO HIS MASTER.


LOOK! THAT MANGY MUTT STOLE THE ANTIDOTE, GAVE IT TO SCOOP, AND NOW HE'S DRINKING IT!!! GET HIM, BOYS!
WHAT THE HE....
I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT, SCOOP, HONEST! SUNNY'S A GOOD LITTLE GIRL.
NO, SUNNY'S A BAD LITTLE GIRL!

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Main Menu
Slammin' Shoppin'
Bodyslammin' Gallery
Mat Rap

In-depth previews and reviews of all the latest World Wrestling Federation television shows!

slammin' shoppin'

Slammin' Shoppin'
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Purchase exclusive World Wrestling Federation merchandise with the touch of a button.

sharpshootin' live

Sharpshootin' Live
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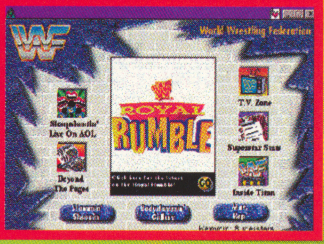
Weekly auditorium rap sessions with the superstars of the World Wrestling Federation.

main screen


World Wrestling Federation
ROYAL RUMBLE
Slampshootin' Live On AOL
Beyond The Pages
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Superstar Stats
Inside Titan
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From the main screen you can access any of these great features that the Federation site has to offer!

bodyslammin' gallery

Bodyslammin' Gallery
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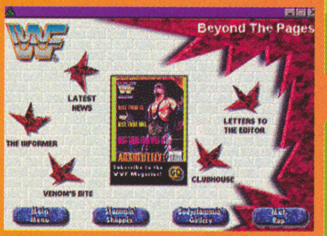
Download photos, listen to audio clips, watch full-motion video clips and much, much more!

beyond the pages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An inside look at the latest issue of World Wrestling Federation Magazine—before it comes out!

superstar stats

Superstar Stats
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Complete bios, pictures and statistics of all the great World Wrestling Federation superstars.

mat rap

Mat Rap
Federation Message Boards
Chat Room
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